

Liberal Party of Canada
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September 24, 2008

Brian Anthony
National Executive Director & CEO
Directors Guild of Canada
402-111 Peter Street
Toronto, ON M5V 2H1

Dear Mr. Anthony,

Enclosed, please find the Liberal Party response to your questionnaire.

For more information on the Liberal Party of Canada's vision for Canada, please take a moment to review our platform online at www.liberal.ca. This document provides details on Liberal goals and priorities.

On behalf of our Leader, Stéphane Dion, and the entire Liberal team, thank you for writing to identify the major concerns of your membership. We appreciate your interest in the Liberal Party's policies as they relate to the issues which affect you.

Sincerely,

Doug Ferguson, President
Liberal Party of Canada



A Liberal Response to the Directors Guild of Canada

1. What would your party do to ensure the future vitality of the industry?

The liberal Party has always supported public funding as a means of enhancing private sector investments for the arts. The liberal Party thinks that the future of the industry depends not only on increasing budgets but also ensuring that freedom of expression and creation is upheld at all cost. This is a principle the Liberal Party will always stand for.

2. How would your party reinforce such programs of direct investments as Telefilm Canada and the Canadian Television Fund?

A Liberal government would not leave the funding for such important institution such as Telefilm and the CTF in limbo. We will provide stability for both by providing long-term funding. As well we believe that Canadian filmmakers should be given more tools to help them succeed. That is why we will increase the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, to 30 per cent.

3. How would your party strengthen the CBC and the NFB, Key Cultural agencies in this field?

The Liberal Party is committed to long term, sustainable funding fro the CBC and to stronger Canadian content. The Liberal Party recognizes the important role the National Film Board plays and intends to support it as well.

4. How would your party improve and expand the Federal Tax Credit Program?

As mentioned above, a Liberal government will increase the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit to 30 per cent.

5. What would your party do to encourage greater private investment in film, television and new media production by creating federal tax incentives?

A new Liberal government will foster an environment in which producers, directors, writers, actors can create freely without any threat of being censored. As well, the Liberal Party recognises the economic value of art culture including the contribution of the cinematographic and television industry. The Liberal Party would ensure that those who want to invest in this industry can do it freely.

6. In order to expand the domestic market for Canadian productions and allow Canadians to see more of themselves, what would your party do to encourage enhanced exhibition of Canadian productions in our cinemas and on television?

The Liberal Party is in favour of putting Canadian content at the forefront of film and television productions. As well, a Liberal government will support Canadian content by directing the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission to

continue its requirement of Canadian production and content as a condition of broadcast licensing.

7. What would your party do to increase greater access to foreign markets by restoring funding to Promart and trade routes and by way of such programs as the program for export market development, the export development corporation and other cultural promotion and trade initiatives?

The Liberal Party would reverse cuts made to Promart and Trade Routes and invest \$26 million in international arts promotion to help bring Canada to the world.

8. What would your party do to bring forward new copyright legislation which enshrines the rights of directors and other key creative personnel working in film, television and the new media?

The Liberal Party would not put forward new amendments to the copyright legislation without holding transparent consultations with stakeholders

9. What will your party do to ensure that effective restrictions remain in place to ensure a Canadian owned and controlled sector and to thereby safeguard our cultural sovereignty?

The Liberal Party has been clear that it supports Canadian ownership of broadcasting, cable and satellite companies and that a Liberal government does not intend to modify foreign limits on ownership in the sectors of media and communications.

10. What will your party do to provide income averaging for tax purposes for creators and cultural workers in film, television and the new media?

A Liberal government will provide income averaging for artists drawing on the inspiration of Quebec's income-averaging provisions. This will ensure that the tax system will better reflect the peaks and valleys of artists' income.

11. What will your party do to ensure that self-employed individuals working in film, television and new media have access to social security programs and labour law protection?

A large proportion of Canadian artists and cultural workers are self-employed professionals or independent contractors. Issues such as health care, employment insurance, pension entitlements, tax treatment, access to professional development or training, are important to them. The Liberal party recognizes this and will be investing massively in the arts, the culture and toward Canadian artists.

Also the Liberal Party intends to ensure that funding provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage in support of Canadian artists reaches sufficient levels to help artists thrive.

In terms of taxation, the Liberal government recognizes that reduced taxes help ease the financial burden artists, particularly those living on low-incomes. As previously noted, a future Liberal government would implement income averaging for artists, building on the actions of previous liberal governments which consistently implemented policies to reduce taxation for individuals making less than \$35,000 annually. These are the kinds of measures that help keep more money in the pockets of the Canadians who need it the most, including our artists and cultural leaders and we intend to continue to do so.

12. What will your party do to restore funding to the national training program in the film and video sector and to ensure that there are continuing opportunities for education, training, skills upgrading and professional development for those working in this sector.

A Liberal government would reverse cuts made to the national training program in the film and video sector.

13. What would your party do to ensure that such sweeping powers are not used to stifle creativity and deter investment?

On June 18, 2008 senators Fox and Moore released their amendments to Bill C-10. The changes proposed would:

1. remove the power for the Minister of Heritage to refuse tax credits based on "public policy" or to issue guidelines about film content, while at the same time safeguarding the right to deny funds when the production itself is contrary to the Criminal Code;
2. give producers an efficient judicial appeal mechanism if the Minister blocks or delays funding; and,
3. continue to prevent government funding of pornography, child pornography, and hate propaganda.