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LA GUILDE CANADIENNE  
DES RÉALISATEURS

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## DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA RECOMMENDS ENHANCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

Toronto –*August 24, 2009* – The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) filed a pre-budget brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance on August 1, 2009. The brief recommends that the Committee give favourable consideration and support to reinforcing the federal inventory of relevant policies and programs for the film, television and digital media sector.

The DGC recommends in its brief that the government immediately initiate a comprehensive enhancement of all federal programs of direct investment in the film, television and digital media industry. The Guild also recommends that the federal tax credit regime be expanded forward and backward to make eligible appropriate pre-production and post-production costs, and that it be broadened to include relevant non-labour costs. Finally, the Guild recommends the creation of a powerful tax incentive to encourage much-needed private investment in Canadian film, television and digital media production.

“Given the small size of the Canadian market and the domination of foreign film and television programming, no Canadian production activity of any quality and quantity could occur without government support,” said Brian Anthony, DGC National Executive Director and CEO. “The film, television and digital media industry is at a critical stage in its development and a renewed commitment on the part of the federal government to this industry is required. This sector is one of the cornerstones of the creative economy – the economy of the future,” noted Anthony.

Government support of the Canadian Television Fund has remained relatively flat since its creation and Telefilm funding has remained severely constrained for years and unable to respond to growing demand. The CBC, another key cultural agency, shares such circumstances, with current resource levels limited and their future uncertain. In this environment, it is critical that the government play a significant role in encouraging film, television and digital media production by building on its past investments and adopting the measures recommended by the DGC. These measures encourage an industry that creates tremendous cultural, economic and employment benefits for Canada and Canadians.

In overall terms, the cultural sector employs over 800,000 Canadians and in 2007 contributed 46 billion dollars, or as high as 84.6 billion dollars when all direct, indirect and induced contributions are taken into account, to the Canadian economy. The film, television and digital media component of the cultural sector accounted for over 5 billion dollars in 2007-2008 and in the same year generated 131,600 jobs – 51,700 directly involved in production activity and 79,900 in providing goods and services to the production industry.

The DGC welcomes the opportunity to appear before the Committee in the course of its 2009 pre-Budget hearings.

**About the Directors Guild of Canada**

The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) is a national labour organization that represents key creative and logistical personnel in the film, television and digital media industries. Its membership includes over 3,800 individuals drawn from 47 different occupational categories covering all areas of direction; production; editing; and design of film, television and digital media production in Canada.

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