

## Address to the Law Amendments Committee, May 5, 2014

Good Morning, my name is Cathy Lynn Crosby and I am here to share my concerns on the Finance Measures Act, specifically, how it impacts the NS Film Industry.

I have worked in Film since 1993. I am a talent agent. For the past 12 years, I have had my own company, Sky Talent Group, I started Sky with a phone line, a photo copier rescued from the dump and a borrowed fax machine. No loans, no grants, no aid, just hard work, determination and a belief that our industry was a growing one.

Today I represent 200 actors from toddlers to seniors.

I represent a large group of incredibly talented, intelligent, and hard working performers. They have landed notable speaking roles in just about every project shot here. For example, several of my performers are recurring characters in Mr D. 22 years ago I started my career representing only minors, and I still take great pride in discovering talented youth and young adults and grooming them to take their place in film, tv, commercials and theatre. Many of my child actors are now working as writers, directors producers, directors of photography, designers and just about every facet of our business. I take immense pride in the part I played in their professional development.

How I generate revenue is by taking a percentage of what my performers earn when they work. Less production, means less work for my performers and in turn less commission for my agency.

On April 9, the Liberal government demolished the NS film industry. Without consultation, without current data, without a single thought to the many families this decision would effect. With one stroke of a pen, the Finance Minister killed a system that had been effective for 25 years. This was done in secret, backroom shady deals, there was no transparency. The government hasn't even given our industry access to the report of 2008. My guess is that because it proves that we bring money to this province. We area great return on investment.

We rallied, we demanded an independent review. The government turned a deaf ear. Our outcry, our gut wrenching stories of families now in crises were dismissed as rhetoric. How insulting. My family will weather this storm because my husband is employed in another field. The loss of my income will cause great change. We have sat with our banker and made plans as though I have no income at all. Our mortgage will not be paid off in 2 years as was the plan before April 9.

We have had to sit with our two youngest children and explain that we may no longer have the means for them to pursue the activities they love. My son, Joseph is 11. He loves to sail and has a band with his best buddies. He is a talented voice actor. My youngest child, Nadia is 7. She lives to dance, she dreams of a life in the arts. I want to tell her that anything is possible to pursue her dreams. I look at

recent events and I fear for her and for any young person who wants to work in the creative industries here in Nova Scotia.

And now we have the new deal that really isn't a deal. Our industry is now hobbled. We can limp along, but our future is not secure. We have had our advocates at Film and Creative Industries fired and now we have been lumped under NSBI. This has thrown our industry into chaos. Foreign producers are losing confidence in our industry. We have no true support from this government.

I stand here to day to ask you to make the to make the following amendments to the Financial Measures Act.

1) take clauses 15-17 and 21-23 out of the bill and leave our tax credits as they were.

2) Failing that, live up to what you promised us when you stood at our doorsteps and campaigned. Amend clause 55 so that those earlier clauses do not come into effect until 2020.

The actors I represent want to work. All our film workers want to work. They want to work here in Nova Scotia. The question is whether or not this government will make it possible for them to do

I love my job. I care deeply about the future of this industry. I care deeply about the financial futures of all of us who work in it. I can only hope this government does as well.

Cathy Lynn Crosby  
Dartmouth