
From: Emlyn Murray [REDACTED] >
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2015 5:17 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: FITC concerns

Dear Mr. Hebb,

I am writing to express my concerns about the new budget proposals. The cut to the Film Industry Tax Credit will be detrimental to the province's cultural and economic health.

I graduated from Dalhousie in spring 2014 with a BA in costume studies. I have a permanent disability and use a cochlear implant to hear. I was nervous entering the job field with an arts degree and a disability but have since worked in the wardrobe department on several different film productions. These film projects have been the majority of my income and have given me a sense of creative and professional fulfilment and belonging. I have been able to pay my student loans, my rent and my amenities far more comfortably than I expected to.

Among these projects I worked as key wardrobe for Studio Black, a mini-series based on African Nova Scotian folk tales featuring an all-black local cast. This series is culturally important to Nova Scotia, as it preserves and brings to light the rich story telling history of Nova Scotia's black community, and employing a diverse cast as it does so. Being given the chance to design four folk tales set in rural Nova Scotia was one of the most creatively satisfying and rewarding jobs I have ever had.

Currently I am working as key wardrobe on Forgive Me, a television show created and directed by Thom Fitzgerald. Thom is an internationally renowned filmmaker whose film and television series are culturally significant pillars in gay cinema. His projects have created steady work for local crew and actors in Halifax.

The Tax Credit in it's previous form has allowed culturally significant work to be made, as well as being an attraction for larger production companies to create feature length large budget work, such as The Lizzie Borden Chronicles, which employed over 20 wardrobe staff alone. Already I have seen several productions pull out of the province, all which signify lost employment for myself and my coworkers. Thom will not be able to produce a third season of Sex and Violence or Forgive me in Nova Scotia.

A competitive Film Industry Tax Credit is important for the continued cultural, artistic and economical growth of our province and is essential to my future as an arts worker in Nova Scotia. I feel unsupported and unwanted by my own home province and cannot foresee a future for myself in a place that so blatantly disregards and destroys an industry employing hundreds of young creative people. As well, I have no respect for a political party that goes back on their promises and will not be voting Liberal for the federal election. I hope that in signing the Finance Bill you will consider the detrimental effects to the film industry and hundreds of jobs the cuts will have and advise the Liberal party of these concerns.

If the cuts are put in effect, I will plan to move in order to take advantage of the tax credits in another province.

Regards,

Emlyn Murray