

From: Rob Riselli [REDACTED]
Sent: May-06-15 12:10 AM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: LAC 2015

Committee members,

My name is Rob Riselli and I work in the Film & Television Industry. I am not a producer, or a director. I'm not an electric or a grip. I'm a businessman and I rely on the film and television industry to earn my living. My company rents cameras, lighting, generators, trucks, and cranes for feature films, television series, commercials, industrial videos, music videos, short films and so on.

My story begins twenty years ago when I was sent to Nova Scotia to assess the viability and sustainability of the film & tv industry for my company. What I first encountered was a group of people who simply wanted to work, express their creativity and provide for their families. Many of them could have left for the larger markets of Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal. They did not. They stayed because they love Nova Scotia and wanted to help build an industry. And they did.

On April 9th of this year this government decided to dissolve the creative industry in one massive stroke. The Film Incentive Tax Credit was gone, at least in the way that it was effective in attracting investors. But you have heard that story. You have heard the stories of eliminating the agency that helped established filmmakers and young visionaries. You have been told there was no consultation. You have been told that people will leave. You have been told a lot of things. I'm about to tell you a few more.

I was not able to make the LAC today, because my job in a rental company had me dealing with Jesse Stone #9. That's right 9. I was also dealing with Oak Island Season 3. Three. Mr D Season 5. Five. Beginning to see a pattern here? Haven't filmed here for 6 seasons. Call Me Fitz 4 seasons. I wonder why? Good shows, good scripts, great crews and a competitive tax credit. Oh, and let's not forget about Rickey, Julian and Bubbles..10 seasons and 3 feature films.

But you've heard all this correct? Titanic and Shipping News and K19 to name a few. Hollywood knocking on the door. There are also the personal stories like The Hanging Garden, Blackbird and Pit Pony. Films that were created by Equity Investment, but you've taken that away. But you've heard all this today.

PS Production Services, Sim Digital, William F White, Take One Productions, Eastward Productions, DigiBoyz, The Postman Productions and Hideout Studios to name a few businesses. This adjustment to the tax credit will probably shut most of us down. Hertz, Avis, Discount, Budget, Home Depot, Kent's, Irving and Ultramar. Just a few companies that we do business with. Not for much longer.

What you are about to do will have a ripple effect. Some people will leave, businesses will close, educational programs will end. For those people that cannot leave there will be hardship. The unemployment figures in this province are some of the worst in the country, don't believe me? Look west and see how many Nova Scotians are in Alberta. Did you think that 2700 people would just simply find jobs in other sectors here? Really? I hope you have more than 150 jobs waiting at the RBC call centres.

We contribute to this province. But you didn't ask us that. You didn't ask anything. You assumed.

In closing, I'll leave you with two thoughts. The first ties back to my statement about assessing the film and television industry. I was given three months. I think after 20 years you know the answer to that one.

The second is this, I understand that decisions are made in the belief that you are creating something better. When you decided to eliminate the tax credit you threatened my livelihood and countless others. When you decided to hide behind the "autism angle", you crossed the line. This austerity budget as you call it, took away from the poor, the disabled, the youth, and the hard working people of Nova Scotia. This government decided to take away from CNIB and other organizations money

that was necessary for programs. You didn't ask them what effect it would have. We were all simply line items in a budget. You simply shuffled money around and made sure that you all received a pension for 2 years work. This budget does not help my family. My son will gain nothing from the token amount given to the autism community, but you twisted it as though it was either the film community or the autism community. I have said my peace with that to the Premier and Minister Whalen.

I would ask that you reconsider this governments actions and think about the many citizens that you have affected.

You have been told a great many things today by many people. I hope you will listen. And I hope you will ask.

Thank you for your time,

Rob Riselli



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