

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** May-05-15 7:40 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Bill 108

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

My name is [REDACTED] and I am 10 years old. I know I am too young to vote, but the future of this province is also my future, so I am hoping you will listen.

I am an actor. I have been acting since I was 6 years old. I love what I do, and I am lucky that up until a few weeks ago Nova Scotia was a great place to practice my craft. Then the budget happened. All of a sudden there was talk about productions pulling out. 22 Minutes who have been filming here for 22 years has already left. Trailer Park Boys and Mr. D will film this summer but will probably be gone next year. This is sad. I just recently did a heritage project on how Canadian Film and television is an important part of our culture as Canadians. Nova Scotia has been an important part of telling Canadian stories for the past 20 years. In fact even before that...in 1913 Evangeline (the first feature film filmed in Canada) was filmed here in Nova Scotia. It is sad to think that the days of our province being part of the film industry are numbered.

The Nova Scotia film industry does not set the rules of the global film industry, they just do their best to play by them. The way the old system worked the credit was paid against Nova Scotia LABOUR costs. You can ask my mom about how many forms there are to fill out when I go to set. The first one we are always handed is the one declaring I am a resident of NS for tax purposes. For someone like me, this meant that a production was more likely to hire me because I live here in NS. That also means that the money from the credit stayed right here helping our economy. The "new" model based on Alberta's system is an all spend. What that means is that it is based on all monies spent in NS. So now instead of a director hiring me to do one or two lines in their movie (because the credit was on labour) they can bring someone in from LA or Toronto to do those lines knowing that what they spend on accommodation etc. For that actor will be eligible for funding. Before you say that wouldn't happen I'd like to assure you that it does happen...I've seen it. It's discouraging when it does happen.

When I looked up information on the Alberta system I also noticed that they cap at \$5million per production. What I have heard on the news is that the government is setting the cap at \$10 million for the year. That would be maybe 2 productions. That would also devastate the multimillion dollar industry we have here. Isn't the many millions the film industry puts into the economy worth thinking about?

Perhaps the system in NS needs to change, but it should change after it is looked at properly.

I said earlier that I did a heritage project on the Film industry. The Finance Minister was at our heritage fair. She even voted on which project she thought was the best. Funny thing is she never came down the row where my project was. How could she decide what was the best project without at least looking at them all? I think that's what might have happened with the film tax credit, decisions were made without all the facts being known. Please think about getting all the facts before you destroy a thriving industry.

Perhaps it's because people don't think of our industry as "real" work that people are so willing to see a growing industry destroyed. Trust me it is real work. The end product tends to make it look like it's easy. It is not. I have been on sets in the heat of August wearing winter coats and mittens pretending I was having fun and not sweltering, I have been on set for 8 hours a day in rain and snow. I have had 5:30 am call times and have also worked into the night. Despite the often harsh conditions on set all you usually hear about is how great everything is. The people who work in this industry are creative and passionate about what they do. Shouldn't Nova Scotia be encouraging people like that to stay?

As I said before I am 10 years old. Here is what the film industry has taught me. Be confident in who you are, sometimes you don't get the part but the experience of auditioning is valuable, be on time (the phrase I was taught at 6 was: to be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late and to be late is to be fired), work hard...if it's worth doing it's worth doing to the best of your abilities, celebrate others accomplishments. The most important thing I have learned however is that our Nova Scotian stories are an important part of our culture and it is important that we have a voice in the telling of them. If the film industry leaves that voice will be silenced and all of us will suffer.

I can't imagine my life without acting, and I can't imagine not living here in NS. But if the film industry leaves, that will be a decision I will someday have to make. Please take some time to really look at what the film industry brings to this province before you make a final decision. Please let my future remain here in Nova Scotia.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Sent from my BlackBerry device on the Rogers Wireless Network

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** May-05-15 8:42 PM  
**To:** Office of the Legislative Counsel  
**Subject:** Bill 108

To whom it may concern:

I have already sent an email but I forgot to say something.

When the Premier was running for office one of the things he said was that he would expand the film and tax credit and extend it until 2020. Now with this budget the finance minister is crippling an industry. I am 10, I know that when you make a promise you should keep it. To do otherwise is lying. That is not right. People voted for you based on a promise not to change the way film does business until 2020. Why not keep your promise, keep it the way it is and use the time to really look at the industry and what it does for Nova Scotia. Real people are being affected. Real jobs are being lost. When a movie about what has happened to the film industry in NS is made please let it have a happy ending where people continue to work and create here. Don't let it be a tragedy where young creative people are forced to leave to pursue their dreams.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my BlackBerry device on the Rogers Wireless Network