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From: Catherine Boyd [REDACTED] >
Sent: May-05-15 8:09 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Law amendments Committee

To the honourable members of the Law Amendments committee,

I am writing to you in regards to the proposed changes to the Film tax credit.

I have worked as a restaurant server in the hotel industry for 20 years now, and for the past 10 years, I have followed my dream and also worked part time as a makeup artist in the film industry, . I was a late comer to the industry. I had been talked out of acting on my desire to study makeup and pursue a career in the field, time and time again throughout the years. In fact, being from Antigonish, and after graduating from ST.F.X. University, I became a daycare teacher, enjoying the opportunity to help influence the start of young children's lives, all the while juggling a server job in order to pay the bills. We all know that daycare workers do not earn large salaries. And eventually, when I began serving in a hotel, I took the job security they offered to become a full time employee. When I was 39, I discovered a makeup course offered in the evenings (so I could keep my day job) here in Halifax, and I jumped at the chance to finally chase my hearts desire. Our teacher arranged for us to spend a day on a film set, and I had that gut/euphoric feeling that this is what I was meant to do. It is all I have wanted to do since that day. A day on set, never feels like work to me, because I am so happy to be doing something I truly love. How many people get to say that? But I was afraid to walk away from the security of my hotel job. I am single and rely on only myself to pay the bills. So I worked mostly as a "daily" over the years, filling in days here or there as productions needed extra bodies for busy days. Name a film that has been in town over the past 10 years, and I have probably worked on it!! For the past 4 yrs., I worked predominantly on Haven, driving to Chester and back or Lunenburg and points in between. And this past summer, I was asked to assist for 4 weeks on the movie Big Driver, and then again assist for 13 weeks on the TV show Lizzie Borden Chronicles. These required larger time commitments from me, and so eager for the amazing opportunity, I took the risk, and stepped down from my full time hotel job in order to work more permanently in the film industry. After years of "working my way up ", I finally was being offered full show assisting jobs. Naively I felt I could trust the Premier, and the Liberal government , who I voted for based on campaign promises to extend the film tax credit to 2020, to take such a big step and risk. I had watched the industry grow throughout the years, and felt hope that this season was going to be huge in NS with lots of demand for skilled crew because of the Canadian dollar. In fact, everyone was excited by the prospect of a busy year in 2015. (I need not recite all the millions of dollars, you have been told them many many times). And then on April 9th, our whole world came crashing down!! Shows I had hoped to be working on, have now completely disappeared. I am struggling financially, like many of my colleagues. and face the very real fear of no longer being able to pay my mortgage and bills. I am 51 years old....do you know how many restaurants want to hire you when you are my age, despite my years of experience? It becomes more of a challenge to "keep up to the young ones", in such a physically demanding job. One more reason I was looking forward to transitioning out of the serving industry and devoting more time to a film career.

I am a very honest person, and trust people when they make a promise to me. Why do politicians feel they do not have to honour campaign promises? IT ISN'T RIGHT, no matter how our premier tries to spin it. I am truly devastated to be slapped in the face with the hard reality that breaking campaign promises is thought of as "fair game" in the world of politics. How can I ever trust another word a politician makes? In the case of the

Liberals, actions will speak louder than words, and this wound cuts so deep, that I PROMISE NEVER TO VOTE LIBERAL AGAIN !! And that you can trust !!!

You decided to alter the present tax credit without consulting the film industry or arrange an impact study. And IT WAS A MISTAKE !!! If you didn't realize it at the time, you most certainly do now. When I taught daycare, one of the most important lessons for children was that it's ok to make a mistake. You just need to fess up to it. Mistakes can be forgiven if you find a way to make it better. Why is this government so resistant to admitting a mistake, especially, now that you have consulted with Screen Nova Scotia, and see that what is proposed in the budget will kill the film industry, and harm Nova Scotia. You hide behind the soothing notion that together with SNS, you have come up with a new film incentive fund to erase the damage your budget announcement had. And perhaps, given enough time, a working solution for both sides may indeed have resulted in something even better to expand and grow the NS film industry, and bring even greater economic returns to the province and government coffers. Again, YOU ARE WRONG!!! You are stubbornly adhering to a July 1st deadline, which cannot possibly allow all the intricacies, and contingencies of this new fund and thus pending contracts, to be worked out by the new administering business department in such a short time period. And your refusal to publically clarify whether you will stick to "the cap" as outlined by the budget, once again, effectively kills the industry, as no producer can guarantee the funds will be available.

It is my understanding that the point of having a law amendment committee, and having the public voice their concerns or disagreement with the proposed bills, is the opportunity for changes and mistakes to be fixed. You have the power to vote against the bill, or at the very least AMEND the July 1st deadline. Give this more time !!! I have read that the film tax credit represents just .02% of the overall budget. And yet we have been able to keep this issue front and center in the press, with the province's public support being MASSIVELY ON OUR SIDE. This is not going to go away. We are not going to let it. You have united this amazingly talented and skilled industry to continue to spread our message. The Liberal Government has made a mistake in regards to the film tax credit !! If you fail to act now, in the next election, you will look back on this with true regret. Other provinces are boosting their film tax incentives, or belatedly trying to rebuild after having taken the same misinformed steps this bill proposes. They have no choice, but to now admit their mistake. But you still have a choice!! FIX THIS !! Listen to your public, who voted you in to office. Be the kind of leaders you want our children and youth to admire and look up to. DO THE RIGHT THING!! Don't stand by because our Premier, smug with his majority seats, feels he can steamroll his wishes over everyone. He is acting very much like a bully in a schoolyard. It's his way or the highway !! He still has 99.98% of his budgetsurely you can find the courage to stand up and speak out against this flawed bill. Don't do something you will come to regret. Which is nothing at all.

I am not one to follow politics closely, and this month has been an eye opening one. What I now know is, in today's world, technology allows us to scrutinize closely, and communicate quickly. We will not forgive, or forget, the Liberal Party's actions to destroy the industry, whose jobs, to us, are more than just a pay check, but a passion and love for the work, vision, and province which we represent and live in. All that remains is how you as an individual will act, now given the choice. You were elected to represent an individual community, stand up for your community and its people, not this flawed Liberal Budget !!

Thank you for listening to my story,

Catherine Boyd