

[REDACTED]

From: jennifer stewart [REDACTED] >
Sent: May-06-15 1:49 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Subject: Bill 108 - Financial Measures Act (2015)

To: Office of the Legislative Council - Law Amendments Committee
Re: Bill 108 Financial Measures Act

My name is Jennifer Stewart and I began my career in the motion picture industry nearly twenty years ago. Through the support of Nova Scotia producers, who in turn are supported by the Film Industry Tax Credit (FITC), I have achieved the highest level of responsibility in the Art department, and work as a key creative on film and television productions. The act of making motion pictures is inherently collaborative, and depends upon crew members with outstanding skill and knowledge in very specific areas (e.g. scenic artist, focus puller, dolly grip *et al.*). Our provincial film industry has grown such that we now have resident filmmakers with these skills, and that coupled with a passion for their work is showcased in some of the best examples of film and television produced anywhere in the world. The FITC has been an essential tool to allow our industry to be a competitor in a global industry.

As a senior member of the film community, I have chosen to mentor many newcomers into the field, secure in the knowledge that I was offering them a path toward an exciting and rewarding career. These hard working young people - Nova Scotia residents and taxpayers like me - have chosen to stay in this province and contribute their talent and energy to our economy and future.

My husband and I are deeply committed to strengthening the arts in this province. We have donated our time and money toward diverse events and organizations, firm in our belief that a strong arts community is essential for all citizens. We are raising our daughter to understand the significance of the creative class so that she will be confident in her understanding of the roles that art and the creative economy play in a positive and thriving society.

The reduction of the FITC to a level that is non-competitive, and the immediate closure of the Film and Creative Industries Nova Scotia was an unprofessional and damaging action. Rolling the responsibilities formerly managed by that office into the Department of Business is alarming. What is the message to the citizens of this province? That arts and culture are to be acknowledged only as they pertain to the concerns of business? When has this ever been a model for a thriving society? And to introduce such cuts without a thorough and recent economic impact study was fiscally irresponsible.

I urge you to restore the FITC to the level that it was prior to April 9, 2015 until an economic study has been completed and appropriate consultation with stakeholders undertaken such that changes to the FITC can be accomplished to satisfy both the government's need for saving, and the industry's need to survive.

Yours Very Truly,

Jennifer Stewart
president, Verb Design Productions Inc.