

My name is Michael McPhee. I am the Creative Director of a Halifax based theatre company called the Doppler Effect. We are an award winning company that produces innovative work for the next generation of theatre audience. In 2014 alone, we won or were nominated for 13 awards.

I was born and raised in Nova Scotia. I left for Toronto in 1997 because I felt there was nothing in the province for me. But I never wanted to go. My heart and my home were in Halifax. So in 2003 I came back, determined to make it work. And I have been able to carve out a modest living, along with my wife and partner, Annie Valentina, because of the film tax credit.

Our careers, and the industry of theatre in general, is supplemented by film. I can create new, innovative work that makes Nova Scotia a more interesting place for young people because film helps pay the bills. In fact, I've directly funded theatre projects with money I've made from film. And I am not unique in this. Our theatre scene, which is one of the finest in Canada, will lose some of it's key players without a tax credit that is able to function at full capacity (not a neutered version that party members insist is a functional compromise).

And while theatre and film have an obvious direct tie, there are so many artists in a similar position. Musicians who compose scores. Painters who do set dec. Sculptors who work crew. All people who make Nova Scotia more interesting, and generate economic activity, because they can supplement their income with film work. And you need these artists.

There is something that you need to understand. One of the only things this province has going for it is it's culture. And we, the creators of that culture, are tired of being treated like parasites. We would all 'do better' if we left. We'd all have more opportunities to create work and make more money if we didn't love this province so much. If we didn't feel it was our province we were fighting for. You have abused us. We generate economic activity at higher dollar in/dollar out ratio than just about anything. We breath life in to this city and this province. And it feels every day like you are daring us to stay. And now, you have crossed the line.

Nova Scotia, and Canada in general does not have a spending problem. We have a revenue problem. The film industry was an example of one of the few things that actually worked and generated revenue in this province. It showed what happened when you put money in artist hands. Instead of taking away money from film, you should have thought about how you could give more money to artists. So that we can help to put this province we love so much back on track.

Thank you

Michael McPhee

Creative Director

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