

My name is Jenna Murphy, I am a member of Screen Nova Scotia.

I was born here. I was raised here, and I found my love for film here.

I am 30 years old, I have a film degree from NSCAD university. I produce and production manage short films. I have been working towards building a local rec-centre and film co-op for youth in Cole Harbour. I would like to build a place within my community where youth can grow useable skills while developing real relationships and bonds with mentors and working professionals. Through workshops and hard work they would create their own films, and later work under mentors on my film sets. Profits from my films would feed the co-op and directly invest in the youth of Nova Scotia, while providing them with a rewarding and prosperous future in this province.

I grew up here knowing that this was the place that I wanted to live, build a life, a family, and grow old. Nova Scotia is my home and I love it more than you could possibly understand. Tomorrow I will be spending my day with students from Junior High schools that feed into Cole Harbour and Auburn high school. Together we work to eliminate the racism and stereotypes that are often associated with Cole Harbour and surrounding areas. I spend a large portion of my time volunteering for the Global Tours program because I believe in my community. I believe in the great things and the great people that Live in Nova Scotia, and I have always believed in the importance of our democratic system.

April 9th 2015, was the first moment in my life that I no longer believed in my government.

You cannot let the amendments to the Financial Measures Act pass with regards to the Nova Scotia Film Tax Credit, because the decision behind changing it is based on lies and miss information. Diana Whalen has been quoted as saying "99% of the money is being paid directly to companies that don't owe taxes in Nova Scotia". This is misleading as productions are run by single purpose companies who don't typically owe taxes, however their parent companies which are typically Nova Scotian production companies do. They pay taxes, their owners pay taxes, their labourers pay taxes. And I pay taxes. I have spent the past year learning about the tax credit and how films in Canada are financed. Before making such a crippling decision, Whalen could have asked me about it, but she didn't. She could have asked Screen Nova Scotia, but she didn't. No consultation, and no up to date studies have been done. However there is clear evidence that diminishing the Tax Credit in the way that is being proposed has killed entire industries in New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. You can find this information easily by a simple google search. I hope you understand that the liberal government has decimated and entire thriving industry based on something they could have googled.

Stephen Mcneil promised to expand the Film Tax Credit in October of 2013. This year however he chose not to expand it as promised, he reduced it to 75% of what it used to be, and did so in a what that rendered the tax credit useless to production companies. Stephen Mcneil has been hung up on the idea that it was not a true tax credit before, and so it had to be changed. It is not appropriate to fix something that isn't broken. He changed the Film Tax Credit based on a technicality, without understanding how it was used as a tool to bring outside funding into Nova Scotia. Local production companies relied on the Tax Credit as incentive to bring funding and

projects to our province. Because we are geographically distant from film hubs like Hollywood and New York, we need the tax credit to entice outside productions and funding. For the past 5 years one of our biggest returning productions called "haven" was filmed in Chester Nova Scotia. If you watch the show you know the story is centred in Maine. For years they have pretended that Nova Scotia was Maine, and they did that because of the Tax Credit, without it they would have just filmed in Maine.

Stephen Mcneil does not understand the impact the Film Tax Credit because he has done no studies, and made no consultation before making changes to this highly effective tool. A tool that brought over 120 million dollars last year to Nova Scotia.

By choosing to cut the tax credit in this manner is to admit that the liberal government didn't do their research, or that they did and ignored the facts. And that is the most terrifying thought I could possibly imagine and it actually keeps me up at night.

For those of you on the committee who are not liberals, I hope that you will not support the suggested amendments to The Financial Measures act and I hope that you can see through the Mcneil governments lies, and deception to members of the legislature and all Nova Scotian constituents. I beg you not to let them pull the wool over our eyes.

For those of you who are liberals, your leader is letting you down. You cannot in good conscience support these destructive changes that are based on speculation and misinformation. Today is the one chance you will have to stand up, and by your actions prove that you can govern better than past governments. Prove to Nova Scotians that we matter to you more than your own pride. Today is your chance to stop the childish behaviour that all parties have been guilty of.

The last thing I would like to share with you is something that screenwriter once told me. "If you pitch something to a group of people and one of them has a criticism you can take it with a grain of salt. But if you pitch something to a group of people and they all have the same criticism, that is something you should spend time revising" And for the rest of the day, as you listen to the same comments over and over today. I would like you to think of that quote.

Jenna Murphy
Production Manager
Independent Filmmaker

