



625 Church Street
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M4Y 2G1
Phone 416.928.2278
Toll-free 1.877.913.2278
info@actratoronto.com
www.actratoronto.com

August 30, 2021

Honourable Vic Fedeli
Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
&
Honourable Lisa MacLeod
Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries

Dear Minister Fedeli and Minister MacLeod,

Re: South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund

On behalf of 15,000 members of ACTRA Toronto, we would like to convey our support for the South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF) to establish a designated film and television funding stream for South Eastern Ontario.

This has been a challenging year. We very much appreciate the support you and members of the government provide as the industry works to recover and grow. Adherence to gold standard health and safety standards, as recognized by the provincial government, permitted the industry to stay open, producing content that helped to connect people and build an audience for Ontario produced stories around the world.

Prior to the pandemic, Premier Ford challenged the screen-based industry partners to grow from a \$2 billion to a \$5 billion industry. The confidence of this government and continued commitment to tax credit stability has led to recent announcements of studio expansions and new investments. Production volume is increasing.

With the increase in business confidence and growth, comes opportunities for regional development. The South Eastern Ontario region has been home to location shoots for service and domestic productions. The Kingston Film Office and programs offered through Queen's University are nurturing and building a community of creative talent. A designated stream of funding will help to further develop and build local screen-based companies to employ and mentor workers in front of and behind cameras and microphones. As we have seen in Northern Ontario, designated funds can help to develop skills in the local workforce, helping people to live and thrive in their home communities.

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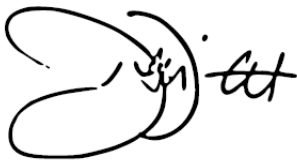
Re: South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund

At this point, there are approximately 300 ACTRA members in the catchment area defined in the proposal for a South Eastern Ontario Production Fund. ACTRA Award of Excellence Recipient Sonja Smits, resident of Hillier, recently completed a film shot in Prince Edward County. While members like Sonja moved to Eastern Ontario some years ago, others have moved more recently from the Greater Toronto Area as costs of living in the GTA have soared. And, then there are the new members who have worked on the service and domestic productions as background or day players and are now looking to build their performer skills and be available to local domestic production companies and location shoots. Performers having work opportunities in their home communities and local domestic productions having access to a growing local pool of talent will help to build capacity. Building capacity will allow companies to channel their resources to the creative needs rather than on travelling cast and crew to the region.

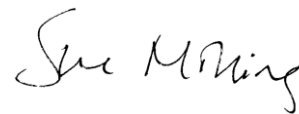
The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation's film fund is a success story and model for other regions in Ontario. The South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund will help to provide a welcome boost to the domestic production companies and local workforce that have demonstrated their interest, innovation and commitment to growing the South Eastern Ontario region as a screen-based hub of production.

We look forward to working with the many government, business, education and industry leaders who support the proposed Accelerator Fund. We appreciate your consideration of the SEOPAF proposal and your continuing support for the film and television industry in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Gale". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "D" and a smaller "Gale" written in a cursive script.

David Gale
President, ACTRA Toronto

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Milling". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing script.

Sue Milling
Executive Director