
SEOPAF Letter of Support

December 11, 2021

ATTN:

Premier Doug Ford

Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance

Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade

RE: Launch of South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF)
via implementation of a NEW film stream fund within the EODF

Dear Premier Ford and Ministers Bethlenfalvy and Fedeli,

Belleville Downtown DocFest is a community-oriented documentary film festival that will present its 11th annual event in March 2022. DocFest seeks to promote awareness of cultural, economic and environmental consequences and to encourage civic participation resulting in positive change. In order for us to have the most impact we rely on other initiatives and programs that foster the growth of culture and the arts in our region and that's why we support the establishment of the South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF) via the implementation of a NEW film stream fund within the EODF

SEOPAF is an initiative that presents a clear plan to produce regional revenue and bolster economic growth. And SEOPAF focuses on regional growth where it is **most** needed (as per government studies 2009-2019).

SEOPAF will amplify opportunities, build capacity regionally and create job diversity and training for our college graduates while generating year-round revenue across diverse sectors.

In creating a new film stream fund within an existing regional fund like the EODF, the government builds on an existing success model. The "success" proof is the positive regional impact of a screen-based fund in the North, where a stackable incentive was specially set up as a film stream fund within NOHFC nearly two decades ago. That Northern film stream created a sustainable \$100M+ year-over-year industry with an impressive 5:1 ROI. We believe our region can match or exceed that return.

The Ontario government's implementation of SEOPAF will accelerate regional sector capacity and job growth.

Please give SEOPAF - a bold initiative for a much-needed regional economic recovery - full policy consideration in upcoming Budget decisions. The SE Ontario region has all the resources necessary to be the NEXT centre of excellence and is primed for this initiative.

Sincerely,
Holly Dewar
DocFest Board Chair
Belleville Downtown DocFest

