

**From:** Cameron MacLaren <cameron@maclarenproductions.com>

**Sent:** February 14, 2022 8:00 AM

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**Cc:** Leif.malling2@ontario.ca; richard.Clark@ontario.ca; Justyna.Zegarmistrz@ontario.ca; Greg.gordon@ontario.ca

**Subject:** Resident Support of the South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF)

Dear Premier Ford and Ministry Leaders,

Ten years ago, I began my feature film career working on one of the first films produced by the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) called *Cas & Dylan*, starring Academy Award winning actor Richard Dreyfuss and Emmy Award winning actress Tatiana Maslany. That film would never have been made without the financial support of the NOHFC.

This financing led us to return to Sudbury to film our next three television series, which all had an incredible economical and societal benefit to the Sudbury region. Those shows were the hit TV series *Letterkenny* (now in it's 10th season with spinoff series *Shoresy* being filmed in Sudbury currently), the mob drama *Bad Blood* broadcasted worldwide by Netflix and in Canada with Rogers Media, and the half hour comedy series *What Would Sal Do?* None of these shows would have been produced without the NOHFC, which has generated more than \$100M in revenue for their region across all productions since its inception.

**I am certain that implementing a similar strategy in the South Eastern Ontario region with the South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF) will have the same, if not greater, results for South Eastern Ontario through job training and creation, the local GDP, and the revenue growth as it did in Northern Ontario.** Creating a whole new industry for the area, as international streaming companies such as Netflix, Amazon, Apple and Disney spend tens of billions of dollars on content annually, will position the residents and future graduates of the South Eastern Ontario area with the skills and expertise necessary to work on some of the biggest films and television series in the world, as seen with many hit TV shows and movies produced in Ontario (and concentrated heavily within the GTA) in the last five years.

Also, with the proposal of Bill C-11 within our Canadian legislation, there will be an even greater requirement for online streamers to support Canadian produced content and the SEOPAF is the perfect incentive to attract domestic as well as foreign productions to the area to rapidly increase our rate of job growth within the region, creating hundreds of new highly-paid job opportunities.

I say "our rate of job growth" because I am proudly building a home just off the Otonabee river where my partner and I look to grow our family. This funding initiative will drastically support news shows like *Letterkenny* and *Bad Blood* to be produced right here in South Eastern Ontario and I look forward to bringing many new projects to the area with the implementation of SEOPAF within the 2022 fiscal budget.

All the best,  
Cameron S. MacLaren