



MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE

KENHTEKE KANYEN'KEHÁ:KA

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June 15, 2023

SEOPAF Letter of Support

ATTN:

Premier Doug Ford

Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance

Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development and Trade

Honourable Neil Lumsden, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport

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

Dear Premier Ford:

Tyendinaga, as part of the Mohawk Nation, is a healthy, sustainable Kanyen'kehá:ka community, located an equal distance between Ottawa and Toronto overlooking the Bay of Quinte. Our community is built on and united by our language, culture, traditions, knowledge, and history. We exercise our rights and responsibilities for the protection of and respect for our people, our land, our resources, and the environment.

We support the establishment of the South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF) via implementation of a NEW film stream fund within MEDJCT's Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF).

In its recent budget, the Ontario government repeated its commitment to bolster the ongoing growth of this great revenue generating industry in Ontario. With the over-subscription of facilities and crews in the North and in the GTHA, a new region is needed to accommodate the "overflow" business that will go out of province given the lack of other in-province regional opportunities. Over time, this new incentive's impact will also amplify growth opportunities in other related industries such as audio and digital post facilities. The SEOPAF Proposal is a simple and effective framework to enable swift action on government's commitment to growth and especially regional growth.

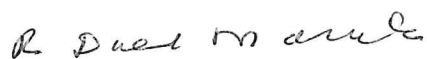
And SEOPAF's focus is on regional growth where it is **most** needed (as per government studies 2009-2019) – South Eastern Ontario which has the lowest economic growth rate in Ontario. In creating a new film stream fund within an existing regional fund like the EODF, government builds on an existing fund model from Northern Ontario where a Production incentive was specially set up as a film stream fund within NOHFC nearly two decades ago.

That Northern film stream over time created a sustainable \$150M+ year-over-year industry with an impressive 5:1 ROI. In 2022, when NOHFC increased its incentive from \$25 million to \$40+ million, the revenue generated was reported as \$400 million. An even more impressive ROI for Ontario and the North. Stats from the Kingston Film Office on its recent ROI from its small local film investment of \$150,000 are equally impressive (8:1) and an encouraging example of the cross-sector benefit locally to accommodations, catering and equipment and location suppliers. Implementing SEOPAF would see the North's success be amplified regionally. SEOPAF's ROI will match or exceed the North's within 5 years.

Stakeholder interest in SEOPAF remains high.

We understand long time riding support for SEOPAF from regional MPPs has also been confirmed (post -election) along with that from Ministers Piccini, Graydon Smith, Todd Smith and Clark. And is further reflected in many of the Municipalities they represent with over 100 LOS from EOWC, EOMC, Municipal EcDev departments and regional colleges. With active interest already confirmed from this government's Finance and Treasury departments, making SEOPAF a stream fund within MEDJCT in the next Budget announcements would start 2024 with a strong new commitment **to this sector** for Ontario. And signal a strong commitment to bolster Economic growth in Eastern Ontario.

SEOPAF is the right Proposal for a much needed regional economic recovery – and one we support.



R. Donald Maracle
Chief, Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte