



18 Logan Avenue,
Toronto, ON
Canada M4M 2M8

February 23, 2021

Dear Minister Fedeli, Minister Bethlenfalvy, and Minister MacLeod,

Shaftesbury is an award-winning creator and producer of original content for television, film and digital. We are competing in a crowded field that COVID-19 has made all the more complicated and expensive to operate in. With this letter, we would like to support the creation of the South Eastern Ontario Production Accelerator Fund (SEOPAF) and urge that this Proposal be included as a priority in the next Ontario Government budget. We would also advocate for funding to be targeted as soon as possible, to implement this Proposal within the Ministry of Economic Development and Job Creation as a separate stackable film fund stream administered within the Eastern Ontario Development Fund (EODF).

A regional approach to film funding in South Eastern Ontario will be as successful as the North film fund stream in the Business Opportunities programme within NOHFC (which the SEOPAF Proposal is actually modelled after) in generating new jobs, shoring up existing regional industries under stress and attracting new revenue. This cohesive Proposal for the South Eastern Ontario region knits various repeated film funding support requests from individual municipal offices across the region, into an achievable scale and assuring regional success **for Ontario.**

Making the SEOPAF Proposal a priority is a solid pandemic survival and long game plan for Ontario. Implementing a ready-made plan like the SEOPAF, modelled on one that has proven to be successful, should be prioritized at this time.

We hope you will consider our ask and explore the possibility of announcing the creation of the SEOPAF fund in the upcoming budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Garvie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Scott Garvie
EVP, Business & Legal Affairs
Shaftesbury Inc.

