



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES

The Union Behind Entertainment IATSE.net

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IATSE Looks Forward to Working with Federal Government on Broadcasting Act Modernization

TORONTO, ON – The Government of Canada has reintroduced a bill to modernize the Broadcasting Act, which has not been updated since 1991. Previous modernization legislation died last Fall when the federal election was called.



The IATSE supports the intent of the legislation but has concerns with the bill as introduced and will be reviewing it more comprehensively. During the

announcement, Canadian Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez confirmed that Bill C-11 is “about fairness, about good, middle class jobs.” As the largest entertainment union, representing over 30,000 Canadian creative workers, the IATSE would like to ensure that this aim is achieved. In Canada, global studios and streamers now contribute \$5.3 billion annually – more than double that of domestic entities. Work on global productions offers the majority of employment opportunities (57% vs 33%) to Canadian film workers - who are able to learn and use more advanced skills, as well as employ and learn the latest in technology.

IATSE International VP & Director of Canadian Affairs John Lewis stated, “Should global studios and streamers contribute to the domestic film industry? Absolutely. The jobs that they bring to Canada should be considered in that equation - but even leaving that aside - they already contribute more financing for domestic production than either Telefilm or the Canada Media Fund. According to the CMPA’s *Profile 2020* report, foreign investment is the second-largest single source for financing for Canadian-owned content production, just after provincial tax credits. Domestic film production should be supported - but that must not be at the expense of job opportunities with the global studios and streamers, which employ the majority of Canadian creative workers.”

The IATSE appreciates the Minister’s commitment to modernize the definition of Canadian Content and looks forward to working with MPs and Government to introduce needed amendments for a healthy and thriving film sector. Together, we can craft good policy that both maximizes opportunities for Canadian creative workers and incentivizes more investment in Canada.

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