



WGC Commends Liberal Government's Federal Budget Support of Canadian Content Creation

Toronto – Feb. 28, 2018 — The Writers Guild of Canada is pleased by the significant news for screenwriters and the entire screen-based entertainment industry announced in yesterday's federal budget: A commitment of new funding for the Canada Media Fund (CMF) intended to stabilize the fund over the next five years.

CMF funding is essential to financing the creation of Canadian content. As audiences watch more content online, cable and satellite services subscription revenues drop. Consequently, so do the contributions companies providing these services make to the CMF. The government's decision regarding the CMF is a necessary step as the screen industry moves through this period of transition and towards new funding models.

"It's great to see this kind of follow through from the Liberal government," says WGC Executive Director Maureen Parker. "When Minister of Canadian Heritage Mélanie Joly announced last fall the intention to top up CMF funding it created a real sense that the government is aware of the importance of having our own, Canadian screen-based culture. This budget confirms that feeling."

The new federal budget allocates \$172 million over five years to the CMF, starting in 2018–19, with \$42.5 million per year ongoing. This is in addition to the \$134.1 million the federal government already provides and is intended to maintain the level of funding in the CMF at the 2016–17 level.

At a time when the government is undertaking a review of the Broadcasting and Telecommunications Acts, it's crucial to ensure that the creation of unique, world class Canadian content continues. The CMF is a meaningful part of that, and our own Liberal government has just taken a big step towards ensuring that future.

Contact: Li Robbins, Director of Communications, Writers Guild of Canada
416-979-7907, extension 5234, l.robbs@wgc.ca

The Writers Guild of Canada represents 2,200 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada, the people who write Canadian entertainment for all screens.