

Writers Guild of Canada welcomes CRTC's decision on base contributions from online streamers

*The estimated \$200 million per year in new funding will help sustain high-quality
Canadian and Indigenous programming.*

For immediate release

Toronto, ON | June 4, 2024 — The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) applauds the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)'s latest decision towards implementing the *Online Streaming Act* (formerly Bill C-11). The CRTC announced it is requiring online streaming services that make \$25 million or more in annual contributions revenues, and that are not affiliated with a Canadian broadcaster, to contribute five per cent of those revenues to certain funds.

This requirement is expected to generate \$200 million per year in new funding and will take effect in the 2024-2025 broadcast year, which begins on September 1. The streamers' contributions will be directed to areas of immediate need through existing funds such as the Canada Media Fund.

“The WGC has been advocating for online streamers to contribute more to made-in-Canada programming that puts Canadian screenwriters front-and-centre,” said Bruce Smith, WGC president and screenwriter. “Through this decision, the CRTC is making meaningful changes to the broadcasting system to better reflect how our industry has changed since the advent of streaming services, and to address the funding issues that have arisen. We hope the streaming services will embrace this ruling and do their part in fostering high-quality content from Canadian creators.”

“This is an important first step, but there is still more work to do,” said WGC Assistant Executive Director Neal McDougall. “The Government promoted the *Online Streaming Act* by pointing to approximately \$1 billion in expected annual contributions by online broadcasters to Canadian content and creators. Today's decision begins to fulfill the promise of Bill C-11. It is an investment in Canada's economy, promoting Canadian intellectual property as well as supporting well-paying, unionized jobs for screenwriters in the Canadian audiovisual broadcasting industry. Canadian screenwriters remain uniquely vulnerable in our regulatory system, and we must ensure the benefits of this vital legislation do not pass them by.”

Since Bill C-11 passed in April 2023, the Guild has been actively participating in the public consultation process, and advocating for a strong and vibrant Canadian broadcasting system containing high-quality Canadian programming. The WGC will continue to work with government and industry stakeholders to ensure Canadian screenwriters – a crucial part of the \$4 billion domestic Canadian film and television sector – remain the authorial voice of Canadian content.

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For more information, contact:

Lisa Blanchette, Communications, 437-871-3367, l.blanchette@wgc.ca

ABOUT THE WGC

The Writers Guild of Canada represents 2,500 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada, the creators of Canadian entertainment enjoyed on all screens. wgc.ca