



October 27, 2009

Valerie Creighton  
President and CEO  
Canada Media Fund  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
360 Rue St-Jacques  
Montreal, Quebec  
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Dear Ms. Creighton,

The Quebec Council of the Directors' Guild of Canada (QCDGC) and ACTRA Montreal represent over 2,700 individuals working in the English-language film and television industry in Quebec. Our members are part of the official language minority community in Quebec, and as such, we have status under the Official Languages Act (OLA).

We believe that the Canada Media Fund (CMF) is subject to the OLA through its Contribution Agreement with the Department of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages. In addition, television productions funded by the CMF are subject to regulation by the CRTC, which is itself subject to the OLA.

The English-language film and television industry in Quebec has been in serious decline over the last decade, as demonstrated in our jointly commissioned report, "Going, Going Gone: The Decline of English Language Production in Quebec" (See attached Report). In order to support our distressed industry which serves the English minority community, the QCDGC and ACTRA Montreal welcome the brief submitted by the English-language Arts Network of Quebec (ELAN) on September 4, 2009, as part of the CMF's current consultative process.

Specifically, we call on the CMF to grant regional status to English-language programs produced in Montreal in order to support the Official Language minority community of Quebec. We also recommend that the CMF establish a dedicated production fund for the English-language minority in Quebec similar to FLPOQ for the French-language minority outside Quebec. In addition, at least half of this fund should be reserved for dramatic production.

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We also welcome the support of Graham Fraser, the Commissioner of Official Languages, who said in his September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, letter to the Canada Media Fund:

*“...The CMF guidelines will have a significant impact on Canada’s linguistic duality and more specifically on OLMCs. Now is the time to set parameters that are adapted to the needs of OLMC producers and that foster the development of these communities.*

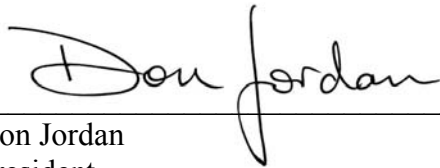
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*I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate the concerns expressed by the English-language Arts Network (ELAN) in its submission regarding the lack of a guaranteed funding stream for English-language production in Quebec. I previously expressed similar concern in my study Shadows over the Canadian Television Landscape: The Place of French on the Air and Production in a Minority Context. I am still of the view that the Fund’s allocation process must ensure equitable funding for the country’s English and French OLMCs. I therefore hope that you will give due consideration to these producers’ concerns and work with ELAN to deal with this significant imbalance.”*

We are sure that you will take the spirit and intent of Part VII of the *Official Languages Act* into consideration as you devise your new production guidelines for the official language minorities.

We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Yours truly,



Don Jordan  
President  
ACTRA Montreal



Rodney Gibbons  
President  
QCDGC

cc- CMF Board: Alison Clayton, Guy Fournier, Ron Osborne, Louis L. Roquet (Chair), Max Valiquette, Cheryl Barker, and Eileen Sarkar;  
Guy Rodgers, Executive Director, ELAN;  
Graham Fraser, Commissioner of Official Languages;  
Konrad von Finckenstein, Chair, CRTC;  
Hon. James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages