



ASSOCIATION DES
PRODUCTEURS DE
FILMS ET DE
TÉLÉVISION DU
QUÉBEC



Writers Guild
of Canada



Canadian Screenwriters and Producers Reach New Agreement

Toronto – October 29, 2012 – Canadian screenwriters and producers have come together on a new collective agreement governing English-language screenwriting in Canada. The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC), the Canadian Media Production Association (CMPA) and the Association des producteurs de films et de Télévision de Québec (APFTQ) announced today that all parties have ratified the new Writers Independent Production Agreement (IPA) that will set the terms of engagement until December 31, 2014.

The new agreement includes an immediate 2% increase to the minimum script fee – the up-front fee paid to the screenwriter on delivery of the script – with another 2% increase in January 2013, and a 1% increase in January 2014. Screenwriters will also receive a 1% increase to retirement contributions paid on fees, which will roll-out over the term of the agreement.

The new agreement also includes the establishment of minimum rates for screenwriting in animation.

Other aspects of the new deal include higher thresholds for low-budget documentaries, and a new feature film incentive option.

WGC President Jill Golick says “collective bargaining is the toughest work we do. We are pleased to have come out of this round of bargaining with not only a deal that is good for screenwriters in Canada but also a renewed sense of partnership with producers.”

CMPA Chief Negotiator and Chief Legal Officer Reynolds Mastin says, “this was a very challenging negotiation for all concerned, but we feel that a fair result was achieved. We would like to thank the WGC bargaining committee for their good faith efforts to reach a deal and look forward to working in partnership with the WGC in implementing the new agreement.”

APFTQ Chief Negotiator and Chief Legal Officer Julie Patry says, “the negotiation of a collective agreement is often a difficult and complex task, and this one was no exception, but we are pleased to have reached an agreement that satisfies all parties. We also thank the bargaining committee of the WGC for their openness and willingness to reach a compromise.”

The deal was ratified by the CMPA and by the WGC membership on October 25, 2012, and by the APFTQ on October 29, 2012.

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The APFTQ represents the vast majority of independent film and television production companies in Quebec, acting on behalf of its members with government and industry organizations and encouraging close cooperation among all stakeholders.

The CMPA represents the interests of screen-based media companies engaged in the production and distribution of English-language television programs, feature films, and digital media content in all regions of Canada. Our almost 400 member companies are significant employers of Canadian creative talent and assume the financial and creative risk of developing original content for Canadian and international audiences. Independent production companies generate a large majority of the \$5.5 billion of production activity that occurs each year, and maintain 128,000 full time jobs.

The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) represents more than 2,100 professional English-language screenwriters across Canada. These are the creators who write the Canadian entertainment we enjoy on our televisions, movie screens and digital platforms.