



Writers Guild of Canada



CBC

Canadian Screenwriters and CBC Reach New Agreement

For Immediate Release

Toronto – July 18, 2013 – The Writers Guild of Canada (WGC) and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) have reached a tentative deal on two new collective agreements governing English-language screenwriting for CBC television and writing for radio, which include digital platforms in each. When ratified, this will be the first renewal of the CBC Broadcasting Agreements with the WGC since 2000.

The new agreement is effective September 1 and will set the terms of engagement until August 31, 2016. In recognition of the 13 years between agreements, the new deal includes a one-time rates adjustment, an increase in CBC's contribution to the writers' insurance plans and subsequently an annual rate increase each year for the duration of the agreement.

Negotiations focused on creating provisions for work on digital platforms, including reuse of traditional TV and radio production writing and made-for-digital production. Both parties agreed to digital writing rates equal to the upfront writing fees for TV and radio, with an additional provision for rates for character text writing for digital platforms and social media.

Laurie Channer, WGC Director of Industrial Relations, noted that "Our primary focus in this negotiation was to recognize that the media landscape has changed dramatically, and provide terms for digital writing and re-use of programs on CBC's digital platforms. I'm happy to say that we accomplished that."

"This is a win-win deal that strengthens a very positive relationship between CBC and the Writers Guild," said Neil McEneaney, Interim Executive Vice President of English Services at CBC/Radio-Canada. "Canadian writers are fundamental to the production of Canadian programming and content. CBC couldn't create the great Canadian content we do without these talented individuals. This agreement recognizes the contribution that writers make to the fulfillment of our mandate as Canada's public broadcaster."

The WGC offers its special thanks to screenwriter Gary Pearson (*That's So Weird; This Hour Has 22 Minutes*) for representing fellow writers in the negotiations.

About the Writers Guild of Canada

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.

About CBC/Radio-Canada

CBC/Radio-Canada is Canada's national public broadcaster and one of its largest cultural institutions. The Corporation is a leader in reaching Canadians on new platforms and delivers a comprehensive range of radio, television, internet, and satellite-based services. Deeply rooted in the regions, CBC/Radio-Canada is the only domestic broadcaster to offer diverse regional and cultural perspectives in English, French and eight Aboriginal languages.

For further information

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