



Writers Guild of Canada on Bill C-11

For immediate release

TORONTO, FEBRUARY 3, 2023 - Bill C-11 passed third reading in the Senate on February 2, 2023. The bill was created to modernize Canada's broadcasting legislation – unfortunately, it doesn't go far enough.

A provision, which the Writers Guild of Canada fought to have amended, remains in the bill, undercutting its purpose and threatening its promised outcome.

Sections 3(1)(f) and 3(1)(f.1) create a two-tier system that will hold foreign streamers to a lower standard than Canadian broadcasters. Without amendments made to those sections, Canadian creators, such as screenwriters, are at serious risk of being minimized or even cut out of the system entirely, as foreign streamers continue to dominate the Canadian broadcasting landscape.

“The WGC is disappointed with this outcome, but we will continue to work with the Government to defend Canada's screenwriters in the anticipated policy direction to the CRTC,” says the WGC Acting Co-Executive Director Neal McDougall. “We expect the Government to ensure the CRTC holds streamers to account when it comes to creating opportunities for Canadians to tell our own stories.”

For more information, contact the WGC's Manager of Communications Emily Saso at 416-721-5705 or e.saso@wgc.ca.

ABOUT THE WRITERS GUILD OF CANADA

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 @WGCTweet