

January 10, 2007



Mayor David Miller
Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor
Toronto, Ontario
M5H 2N2

Dear Mayor Miller,

As Chair of the Directors Guild of Canada – Ontario, I am writing on behalf of our 1,500 members to ask the City of Toronto and TEDCO to seek an extension to the upcoming closure of the Marine Terminal 28 studio facilities until 2008 or at least until the end of summer 2007.

As you are aware, TEDCO has issued a “vacate notice” to Cinespace Studios for the Marine Terminal 28 studio facilities. Our understanding is that the lease on this property ended September 21, 2004, followed by various short-term arrangements, the last of which was dated October 4, 2006 indicating a final deadline of February 1, 2007. We also understand that Cinespace has clients with deposits and holds on this studio space well into 2007.

Regardless of how we have arrived at this current state of affairs, this closure means that many millions of dollars of scheduled Toronto production, related jobs and post-production work would immediately leave for other jurisdictions. This is a critical time for all sectors of Toronto’s film and television industries. The uncompetitive dollar, increasing competition from jurisdictions all over the world and unsettled labour situations, sent members of DGC Ontario and our colleagues reeling from an extremely poor 2006.

Our industry is in dire need of an upturn in 2007. Thanks to a stabilizing dollar and the successful resolution of several labour issues, that upturn is a distinct possibility. The closing of a major studio facility at this time, and the accompanying perception that Toronto is not able to accommodate production volumes, could not only seriously harm that recovery but also the long-term viability of an industry that is vital to Toronto’s economy.

So, once again, I urge that the City of Toronto and TEDCO extend the closing deadline for Marine Terminal 28. This would enable current production bookings to remain in Toronto. This would also assist the television and film communities in the short term, and allow Cinespace, the City of Toronto and TEDCO more time to arrive at an agreement on relocation of the much needed studio.

Sincerely,

Don McCutcheon
Chair, Directors Guild of Canada – Ontario

C.C. TEDCO – Mr. Jeffrey D. Steiner and Mr. Jerry Prypasniak