

Please – *Call Before Your Gig!*

May 16, 2008

Hello DGC Ontario,

The changes that we are encountering on productions and in post (webisodes, docudramas, lifestyle, reality and smaller budget productions) have lead us to clarify the DGC Ontario Dispensation Policy to keep up with the times.

Article 14.6 of the DGC Ontario Constitution states –

14.6 The Executive may, in its discretion:

- a) grant dispensation to a Member to work in a professional DGC category for a Producer who is not a signatory to a collective agreement or Standard Agreement, provided the Member seeks dispensation prior to commencing work;**
- b) determine that a particular type of production is exempt from collective agreement or Standard Agreement requirements.**

The literal meaning of dispensation is, 'An exemption or release from an obligation or rule'. DGC Ontario members are obligated to work under a Guild contract unless **dispensation** is given or an **exemption** is made.

You may apply for dispensation for Tier F productions including those that are not signed under our Standard Agreement. You may also be entitled to an exemption, just check the list of projects that a member can work on without contacting the Guild. Included with this letter are the two sheets of paper you need: the **Dispensation Policy** and the **Exemption List** (on green paper).

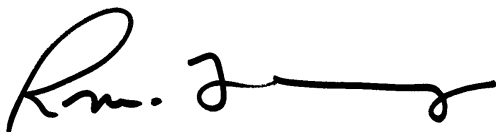
Our interest is NOT in stopping you from working – our interest is in making sure that you are fairly compensated and are working under safe conditions, no matter what the production budget. The more information we have for these lower budget shows then the better chance we have of working amicably with the producers and securing safety conditions and some Tier E (or higher) benefits for members.

Upgrading your work category is another benefit of letting the Guild know what production you are working on. In many cases, a lower budget show offers work opportunities for members who want to work above their category. When granted dispensation, those days of work will count towards your upgrade. However, if you don't request dispensation **before** you start work then those days will not count towards your upgrade (and you are in breach of the Constitution).

So please – ***Call Before Your Gig!***

If you have any questions please contact Mimi Wolch (mwolch@dgcodc.ca) or Ruby-Anne Meawasige (rameawasige@dgcodc.ca) at 416.925.8200.

Thank you for your phone call,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Haney", written in a cursive style.

Ron Haney,
CEO & Executive Director