

WAYNE SAMUELSON
President
IRENE HARRIS
Secretary - Treasurer
TERRY DOWNEY
Executive Vice-President



August 13, 2007

Peter F. Wilkinson
Chief of Staff
Office of the Premier
Legislative Building, Queen's Park
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A1

Dear Mr. Wilkinson,

I am writing to urge your government to implement a meaningful consultative process that includes artists' unions, artists' associations, producers, engagers, and others as appropriate, to develop and implement a legal and binding framework for collective bargaining. In addition, I am writing to urge your government to enshrine protections for child performers and implement tax measures that treat artists fairly.

As you know, these issues are very important to Ontario's artists, performers and cultural workers. These changes would treat those who drive the economic basis of Ontario's cultural and tourism sectors more fairly, and ensure that Ontario's artists flourish, rather than simply survive.

The Ontario Federation of Labour represents over 750,000 workers in Ontario, including writers, actors, performers, singers, film-makers, and countless others who deserve the right to work safely and with decent earnings. Too many of Ontario's artists slip through legislative cracks and earn less than minimum wage, enjoy few benefits, and struggle with dramatic fluctuations in income from year to year. Your government has the capacity to make positive changes that will make a crucial difference in the well-being of Ontario's artists and cultural workers.

We urge you to act as soon as possible to begin the process of redressing these issues, before Ontarians go to the polls on October 10, 2007.

Sincerely,

Terry Downey
Executive Vice-President

cc: W. Samuelson, I. Harris

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