MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE

City of Toronto Council Opposition to Federal Bill C10

Moved by: Councillor Carroll
Seconded by: Mayor Miller

SUMMARY:

Bill C10, currently scheduled for a third reading before the Senate, contains an amendment that would give the Heritage Minister the right to deny tax credits to productions deemed to have “offensive content”. Canadian law and the current tax credit system already require Canadian productions to meet high standards of quality and decency but, under the new bill, Canadian productions would also be subject to a government review of their final product.

At its meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2008, the Toronto Film Board met and “directed the Co-Chairs of the Toronto Film Board to advocate the Conservative Government, in whatever way possible, to stop the incentive of pulling the financial aid for any film or television show that it deems offensive or not in the public’s best interest”.

Under the current proposal, productions approved for tax credits would have to return the funds if their final product did not meet with government approval. This will have a negative impact on a production’s ability to secure financing and on the industry as a whole. The result will be paramount to censorship, where many productions will never be produced as a result of this uncertain climate.

The film and television industry is vital to Toronto. Production companies spent over $704 million filming on location in Toronto in 2006, and there are over 35,000 people who derive their living from the film and television industry today. In its current form, Bill C10 will have very negative effects on the film industry in Toronto and across Canada.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That City Council express its strong opposition to Bill C10 in its current form.

2. That the Federal government be requested to conduct consultation nationwide with industry stakeholders on the implications of the proposal, prior to implementing any change to the tax credit system.
3. That Mayor David Miller be requested to write to Heritage Minister Josee Verner, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and Governor General Michaeille Jean on behalf of Toronto City Council to express its opposition to Bill C10.

March 3, 2008

**According to Chapter 27, Council Procedures:**

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<th>Fiscal Impact Statement provided</th>
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<td>Should have Fiscal Impact Statement prior to debate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requires two-thirds to waive requirement if Council wishes to debate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is before Council for debate</td>
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<td>Chair agrees that the Motion Recommendations are <strong>Urgent</strong></td>
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* Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to advise.