



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES
and MOVING PICTURE MACHINE OPERATORS of the UNITED STATES and CANADA

LOCAL No. 58 - TORONTO - CHARTERED SEPTEMBER, 1898

November 7, 2012

Executive Committee

Toronto City Hall

100 Queen St. West

Toronto, ON.

M5H 2N2

Sent as E mail Attachment

RE: Executive Committee Item EX 24.8 - Future of the Three Major Civic Theatres – Directions Resulting from the Request for Expressions of Interest No. 9101 – 12 – 7008

Executive Committee Members,

As the Union that represents back stage workers in the City of Toronto IATSE Local 58 has a vested interest in the future operation of the three civic theatres as described in the recommendations of the staff report that the Executive Committee will be considering at your Monday, November 5, 2012 meeting. We were invited to and participated in both stakeholder and public meetings held by the Mayor's Task Force on the future of the theatres and we have been unwavering in our opinion that these venues continue to operate as theatres. We of course share Council's view that, like all City departments and assets, the theatres need to be operated cost effectively and efficiently and that there are a number of options available to achieve this goal. With regard to the St Lawrence Centre for the Performing Arts and the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts; we agree that the Staff recommendations contained in the report represent the only real viable option and that the service these two venues provide to not only their specific communities but to the cultural vibrancy of the City as a whole is invaluable.

Although programming at the Sony Centre may be of a more "commercial" nature than the other two theatres its place in the community is no less significant. The debate about whether or not there are too many large scale theatre seats in Toronto notwithstanding; there is currently no other venue in the City providing the scope and scale of multi cultural programming as the Sony Centre.

While we agree that it may make sense for the City to divest itself of the Sony Centre through some form of "transfer of assets" and thereby cease being a burden to Toronto tax payers we fervently believe that the Sony Centre should remain intact as an operational theatre venue and that only proposals that guarantee this option should be given consideration. Of particular concern to us is the inclusion in the recommendations of the term "potential adaptive reuse". This would seem to leave the door open for any number proposals completely unrelated to the use of the venue, or site, as a theatre. We would respectfully ask that the Executive Committee's recommendations to Council not include proposals for "adaptive reuse" of the Sony Centre site and only proposals that guarantee the continued use of the Sony Centre as a theatre be considered.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

~~Jim Brett, President~~

IATSE Local 58

511 Adelaide St. West

Toronto, ON. M5V 1T4