



IATSE 873

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Economic and Community Development Committee
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Sent by email: ecdc@toronto.ca

Dear Chair Thompson and Committee Members:

As one of the largest film unions in Toronto, we are writing to express our concerns about the development of the Employment Area south of Eastern Avenue. The negative impact the loss of studio space would have on the industry would be vast, and ultimately affect thousands employed through our union both in their ability to reach their places of employment and the volume of work available.

Despite the pandemic, with strict health and safety protocols in place, the film industry has continued to flourish in Toronto. This can be seen through our rapid growth in membership numbers. This increase of over 20% since Q3 in 2019 is due to the demand for skilled technicians working in the Toronto area.

In 2021, over 47 productions filmed in the Toronto area amounting to 994,995 days worked by IATSE 873 members. We also had a record number of daily calls in IATSE 873 history and gross wages surpassed \$509 million.

With a union of nearly 5,000 skilled film technicians working year-round on productions in the Toronto area, the ability to reach their varied places of employment within a reasonable time is of the utmost importance. The importance of quality of life for those working in the film and television industry has been widely documented and the ability to access their workplaces within a reasonable amount of time, largely contributes to this.

The reduction of studio space would mean a shift in the hubs of employment, and in turn a reduction of productions with the ability to film here.

We sincerely hope you will take this information into consideration when making your decision as our people are also your people.

Sincerely,

Angela Mastronardi
President
IATSE 873

Glen Gauthier
Business Agent
IATSE 873

cc: Councillor Paula Fletcher