



unifor
NABET 700-M

Ontario Film, Television & New Media Technicians

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May 31, 2023

City of Toronto
Planning and Housing Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON
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Sent via email: phc@toronto.ca

RE: Toronto Agenda Item 2023.PH4.8

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

We are writing today on behalf of NABET 700-M UNIFOR.

NABET 700-M UNIFOR represents nearly 3,000 film, television and digital media Technicians in the Province of Ontario, 67% of whom call the City of Toronto home. Our Technicians work behind the scenes in the departments of Lighting, Grip, Hair, Makeup, Costume, Sets, Props, Construction, Paint, Special Effects, Transportation and Sound. An example of the amazing productions that our Technicians work on which are seen, and celebrated at home as well as around the world, include the series *Run the Burbs*, *Shelved*, *Sort Of*, *Murdoch Mysteries*, *Robyn Hood*, *I Woke Up a Vampire*, *Popularity Papers*, *Ruby and the Well* and *Children Ruin Everything* and feature films such as *Brother*, *The Swearing Jar*, *Humane* and *The Invisibles*; just to name a few.

Specifically, we are writing in regard to the above-noted agenda item and the upcoming Planning and Housing Committee meeting on June 1, 2023 and to advise that NABET 700-M UNIFOR endorses the comments put forward by the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning in their May 17, 2023 submission to this Committee.

Even more specifically, we share the concerns put forward in the *"Impact on Film Production Industry"* analysis provided as part of the larger submission mentioned above.

The film and television industry, the new manufacturing, in Ontario is a \$3.15 billion dollar industry, with \$2.5 billion of that activity happening right here in the City of Toronto. The Province of Ontario has a stated goal of growing the sector to \$5 billion – a goal we can meet – however, we feel that the impact to film and television production through the proposed Provincial Planning Statement 2023 will impede our ability to achieve this goal.

Film and TV is a business that thrives on predictability and stability. The potential for upheaval that the removal of the five-year cycle for reviewing conversion requests creates could be problematic for our sector. Productions looking to locate to Ontario, and specifically Toronto, need to know if they are going to make a long-term investment with their production and commit to the jurisdiction for what we hope will be multiple years that they will not be in danger of having to incur costs of uprooting their production and moving to another part of the City or even Province should conversion be allowed at any time.

Film and TV is a business that has unique needs and work habits. To address this fact, our sector is one that often clusters in certain areas of the City. This can be found in areas such as the Port Lands and Etobicoke South, just to name two, where you will find film and television studios, equipment suppliers, production offices and other ancillary businesses that support the business of film and television. As we are mindful of our sector's impact on neighbours; we work odd hours, can produce noise in relation to the requirements of a production and we require some level of anonymity and privacy, this "clustering" makes it more efficient for our sector to do business. This is why it is important to have film production included in the definition of Employment Areas.

Film and TV is a business that provides year-round work opportunities and high paying jobs for the crews they employ. In order to keep up with the demands for skilled and qualified crew, NABET 700-M UNIFOR has grown the number of full Members and Permittees, those working towards membership, by approximately 20% over the last three years. As a Union, we are always looking at ways to add to the diversity of our membership. In part due to our partnerships with the City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario, NABET 700-M UNIFOR has been able to provide training and on-the-job, paid placements for individuals from underrepresented communities to learn the craft and become part of this sector. Many of these new entrants into our sector live, and want to work, in the City where they either grew up, or recently came to, to start a career.

Any measures that allow for the fracturing and fragmenting of the sector will only have an adverse effect on the positive steps that we as an industry have taken together to get us to this point in our success.

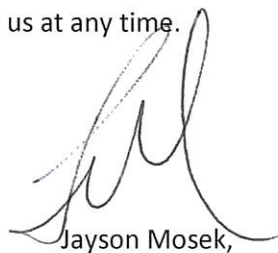
We appreciate the opportunity to provide this submission for consideration by the Committee.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact us at any time.

Yours very truly,



Peggy Kyriakidou,
President
NABET 700-M UNIFOR



Jayson Mosek,
Business Agent
NABET 700-M UNIFOR