

Sask merger premature

TORONTO – The timing just isn't right for a merger of the Yorkton film festival with a recently formed umbrella group representing much of Saskatchewan's film industry, some festival officials say.

But the president of the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industries Association (SMPIA) says the proposal should go ahead.

Don List, president of SMPIA and also a Yorkton festival board member, said the merger "could not be at a more opportune time." In an interview with *Cinema Canada*, List said both the federal and the Saskatchewan governments are preparing responses to a cultural development study that will have a significant impact on the province's film industry.

A merger of Yorkton and SMPIA would provide a stronger voice for the film industry at a time when the government is reviewing the funding of the province's motion picture, recording and publishing sectors, List added.

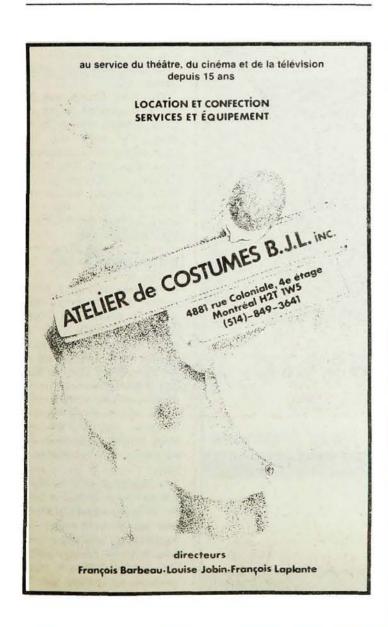
But some officials with the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival, which is holding its 22nd anniversary this fall, say a merger proposal is premature.

Mavis MacDonald, acting executive director of the festival, said Yorkton's board of directors rejected a merger proposal by SMPIA earlier this year. She said Yorkton does not agree with the content or the way the proposal was presented.

MacDonald said she would like to hold meetings with SMPIA, the provincial government, the Saskatchewan film pool and Yorkton to discuss the merger proposal.

"We will certainly be helping SMPIA any way we can, but a merger at this time – no," she said.

Ian Reid, a board member of the Yorkton festival and also a member of SMPIA, said the industry association proposal does not have a mandate from the general membership of the group. Reid said he would want to go over any proposal for a merger with a fine-tooth comb adding that "Certainly it should wait until members of SMPIA discuss it." He said a meeting is scheduled for the



fall.

Reid said SMPIA, which was formed in November 1985 and which represents 45-50 member-organizations, has an important role to play in lobbying the government for the province's film industry. He added the merger proposal should not be a key goal for the industry association at this time

MacDonald said the Yorkton festival, which since 1979 has been a forum for Canadian productions only, exists for the film industry and filmmakers, while SIMPIA is more geared to lobby the government.

List said an economic regional development agreement involving several federal and provincial government ministries has been in the works since November 1985. Although recommendations,



STUDY ON CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN CANADA

The Standing Committee on Communications and Culture of the House of Commons will begin in the Fall of 1986, a study of the various cultural activities in Canada.

The study will involve consideration of the following reports:

- 1. The Report on Culture and Communications of the Study Team to the Task Force on Program Review (Nielsen Report)
- 2. Broadcasting (Caplan-Sauvageau)
- 3. Funding of the Arts (Bovey)
- 4. National Museums of Canada (Richard-Withrow)
- 5. National Arts Centre (Hendry)
- 6. The paper on Cultural Industries
- 7. Status of Artists (Gélinas-Siren)
- 8. Film Industry (Raymond-Roth)
- 9. Non-Theatrical Film Industry (Macerola-Jensen)

Individuals and organizations who wish to make written submissions to the Committee may do so in English, French or both official languages.

Public distribution of all submissions and the choice of witnesses for public hearings are left to the discretion of the Committee.

All briefs, correspondence and inquiries should be addressed to:

Clerk Standing Committee on Communications and Culture House of Commons Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0A6 (613) 996-1483

GABRIEL FONTAINE, M.P. Chairman

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which are expected to outline government financial support for the film industry, will probably not be revealed for 12 months or more, the film industry in Saskatchewan should co-operate now, List explain-

He said SMPIA would respect the tradition of the Yorkton festival under any merger and wouldn't want to move the festival to another location in the province as some fear.

"Yorkton has that unique-

that away," List said.

He said that he didn't think the proposals for a merger should be a surprise and that the idea was not pushed on anyone. List said many of the goals of Yorkton festival and SMPIA are the same.

titude I'm trying to suggest ... is that only through cooperation can we grow." List said the province does not need a split in the film community and added that he supports the efforts of the Yorkton festival.

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Reid, in reaction to an earlier Cinema Canada story that appeared in the July/August 1986 edition, said he is concerned about comments that SMPIA could capture Yorkton's Provincial Cultural Organization (PCO) number. The PCO number is needed to get access to funds from Saskatchewan's lotteries corporation.

In response to comments by a SMPIA board member in the previous story stating that "We all feel Yorkton could be a bit more than it is," Reid replied "SMPIA is not all it could be." He explained that SMPIA should stick to issues such as those underlined by the recent study of Saskatchewan's film industry.

List said that Yorkton is a major recipient of government funds and that the industry association is attempting to get its own official status in order to get government funding.

List, who is a filmmaker and also president of the Independent Film and Video Alliance. said the film industry in Saskatchewan is being tossed around at present. He said the current developments in the province's film industry indicate more than a single controversy and instead point more to the evolution of a growing area of the province's

The Yorkton festival wants support, Reid said, but it doesn't want SMPIA to take over. While List sees immediate benefits to the merger proposal, Reid, also a filmmaker, is not so sure.

"I don't immediately see the benefits, but I'm open to be convinced."

On the question of changes coming to the Yorkton festival, MacDonald said an international display of films, which would not be included in the competition, will be held at next year's event.

Applications pour into OFDC

TORONTO – A Cinema Canada story on the Foundation to Underwrite New Drama for Pay Television: which appeared in the July/August 1986 edition, incorrectly quoted an Ontario Film Development Corporation official.

The article quoted the OFDC official as saying two complete applications for script writing projects in development were received as of

In fact, up to the end of the first quarter on June 30, 1986, the OFDC had received 78 applications that are sufficiently documented to begin processing. Since the OFDC opened, that number amounts to at least one application per day that is complete enough for evaluation by the provincial film development corporation.



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