

Canada Film Year cancelled

TORONTO - Canada Film Year, the celebration of the Canadian film industry due to begin in September, has been cancelled. The Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television made the announcement April 28 in a brief press release. Maria Topalovich, Director of Communications for the Academy, told *Cinema Canada* that, "it was the responsible thing to do. It was very difficult for us to the kind of fund raising we needed to do in the current economic climate."

The decision to scrap the events came immediately after the budget was released in Ottawa. "It just seemed like the wrong time," said Topalovich. "It was felt that the fundraising targets are unlikely to be met and this would severely limit Canada Film Year's programming and promotional objectives." Government funding for Canada Film Year was intended to be supported by private sector financing. Projects funded by CFY were expected to raise matching funding other sources.

Stephen Roth, chairman of the board for CFY, expressed hope that an alternative means of "highlighting and promoting our film achievements will developed in the future." Applications have already been received for events plan in the fall and Topalovich anticipates negative feedback from those who saw the whole notion of celebrating Canadian film as being ill-conceived.

"This was a great opportunity when this was conceived off two years ago," said Topalovich. "We work in a difficult industry and things change. We really regret it."

OFDC issues OFIP guidelines

TORONTO - The Ontario Film Development Corporation has issued guidelines for its two-year Ontario Film Investment Program. The program was announced back in February as a means "to counter the federal government's decision to significantly reduce the tax incentive to

invest in Canadian films," said Ontario's Minister of Culture and Communications Lillie Munro at the time.

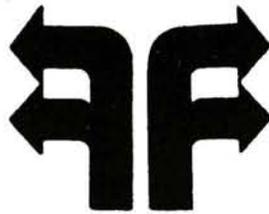
The Ministry hopes that the scheme will generate a minimum of \$75 million in private sector investments in the first year and roughly \$120 million in total film production. The program will be limited to independent productions that are Ontario-controlled and provides a cash rebate of up to 20 percent of the investment up to a limit of \$2.25 million.

Eligible investors will get a 15 percent rebate if the film gets eight, nine or 10 points and 75% of the post is done in Ontario and 20 percent rebate if the film achieves 10 points and 90 percent of the post is done in the province. The point system is the same for certification under the regulations of the Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office and the points are allocated to key creative and technical positions on the film.

According to the guidelines, an "Ontario resident" is someone who has been present in Ontario for at least 200 days of the year prior to the date of application. The production must be actually owned and controlled by one or more Ontario production entities and not previously be-

nefitted from OFIP. Principal photography must normally take place in Ontario and the budget approved by the OFIP. When a production qualifies, based on a review by the OFDC, and the OFDC is satisfied that all the financing is in place but for OFIP approval, the OFDC will provide a guarantee of rebate to close the deal.

The OFIP is funded by a commitment of \$30.8 million from the province. Munro said at the February press conference, "Individuals within the film industry and industry associations tell us that film production in this province could well fall by half if nothing is done. Our government will not let this happen." She pointed her finger at the feds for doing nothing about the damage done to the industry by the virtual elimination of a coordinated federal policy. "We hope the federal government will develop a meaningful national approach that will make provincial programs unnecessary," she said.



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