

# ORGANIZATIONS

## CCFM

### Council of Canadian Filmmakers

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Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1G5  
(416) 869-0716

### Combines Investigation

An application for an inquiry into the market practices of the foreign controlled theatrical film distribution and exhibition system in Canada was filed today with the Combines Investigation Branch of the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in Ottawa.

The applicants (nine individuals, not the CCFM itself) are Author (*Hollywood's Canada*) and television personality Pierre Berton, Quebec film director (**Les Ordres**) Michel Brault who shared "Best Director" Award at the 1975 Cannes Film Festival with Costa-Gavras, Film producer (**Dreamland: A History of Early Canadian Movies**) Kirwan Cox, Film critic (*Marshall Delaney at the Movies*) and *Saturday Night* editor Robert Fulford, Council of Canadian Filmmakers Chairperson and Director of the Canadian Film Awards 1975 Sandra Gathercole, Film director (**A Married Couple; Warrendale**) Allan King, Film director (**Paperback Hero; Best Damn Fiddler from Calabogie to Kaladar**) Peter Pearson, Film producer (**Janis; The Man Who Skied down Everest**) Budge Crawley, Actor/writer (**The Rowdyman**) Gordon Pinsent.

Practices of tied selling; exclusive agreements; and refusal to deal with independents were cited in the application as examples of abuse of market control. The signatories state that they believe that such practices have been employed in the Canadian feature film market from "at least the early forties to the present", and that they constitute an offence under Section 32 (1) c and d, and Section 33, of the Combines Investigation Act.

Sandra Gathercole, Chairperson of the 8,000 member Council of Canadian Filmmakers, announced the filing of the application at the 4th Winnipeg Film Symposium held at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. She stated that 10 distribution and exhibition companies were named in the application, including: Famous Players Ltd. (exhibitor), Odeon Theatres (Canada) Ltd. (exhibitor), United Artists Corp. (distributor), Paramount Pictures Corp. (Canada) Ltd. (distributor), Columbia Pictures (represented in Canada by Astral Films Ltd.) (distributor), Warner Bros. Distribution Ltd. (distributor), Universal Films (Canada) Ltd. (distributor), Twentieth-Century Fox (distributor), Avco Embassy

(distributor), Walt Disney (distributor); the last three companies are represented in Canada by Bellevue Film Distributors Ltd.

The application states that: Two foreign controlled corporations, Famous Players Ltd. and Odeon Theatres (Canada) Ltd. together control in excess of 63% of the gross earnings of the \$200 million annual Canadian box office. Distributors cited in the application control between them more than 80% of the total theatrical film rentals in Canada. 45% control of the film market was deemed a monopoly in U.S. Anti-Trust decisions in 1948. Canadian films have not had reasonable access to Canadian theatres owned by the major exhibition chains. Independent Canadian exhibitors have not had fair access to first run film product being distributed in Canada by the major Hollywood distribution companies. Revenues earned in Canada by foreign distributors belonging to the Motion Picture Export Association of America have increased 98.9% between 1970 and 1974. In 1974 Canada became the largest foreign market in the world for American films. Canadian film production has fallen drastically in the last five years.

The applicants conclude that the extent of foreign control of the Canadian market restricts legitimate competition in the distribution and exhibition of films and places Canadian films at an immense disadvantage in their own country, and that this situation is contrary to the public interest, as well as the interests of the Canadian film producer, distributor and exhibitor.

Section 32 (1), subsections (c) and (d), Part V, of the Combines Investigation Act states:

*"Everyone who conspires, combines, agrees, or arranges with another person... (c) to prevent, or lessen, unduly, competition in the production, manufacture, purchase, barter, sale, storage, rental, transportation, or supply of an article, or in the price of insurance upon persons or property or (d) to restrain or injure trade or commerce in relation to any article, is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for two years."*

Section 33 of the Combines Investigation Act states:

*"Every person who is a party or privy to or knowingly assists in, or in the formation of, a merger or monopoly is guilty of an indictable offence and is liable to imprisonment for two years."*

The application was filed under Section 7 (i), Part 1, of the Combines Investigation Act which permits "any six persons, Canadian citizens, resident in Canada, of the full age of twenty-one years, who are of the opinion that an offence under Part V has been or is about to be committed" to apply for an inquiry into such matter. The

application was forwarded to Robert J. Bertrand, Director of Investigation and Research, Combines Investigation Branch, Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

Karl D. Jaffary Q.C. is named as legal correspondent for the applicants.

Sandra Gathercole

## CFEG

### Canadian Film Editors' Guild

P.O. Box 46, Terminal A  
Toronto, Ontario



The Canadian Film Editors Guild, now into its ninth year, is pleased to announce the election of a new National Executive Board for 1976. Phil Auguste cfe, who has been closely associated with the executive since the inception of the Guild in 1967, has been elected president. Kit Hood cfe, who has been president for the last two years, is now first vice-president. The second vice-president, Brian Damude cfe, is new to the executive; Brian has recently completed his first feature as writer and director. The film, **Sudden Fury**, won the 'Best Editing' award for its film editor, David Nicholson cfe, in the recent CFEG Annual Awards. Previously separate functions, the posts of secretary and treasurer have now been combined and John Gaisford cfe, is the Secretary/Treasurer. John previously served as treasurer.

The Board Members are all new to the executive. They are Jim Hopkins cfe, John Fryd cfe, Ralph Brunjes cfe, Audrey Currie (Associate) and Peter Emond (Affiliate). Alan Avrith cfe remains as the Montreal Regional Executive Officer.

Whether the 'new brooms' are going to 'sweep clean' or not remains to be seen but it is intended that the new executive will be more effective than any previous one and it is hoped to reinvigorate the membership and endeavour to get lapsed members back in the Guild, more by influence than 'arm twisting.'



## CFFS

### Canadian Federation of Film Societies

6718 Legare Drive S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta T3E 6H2

#### Activities

The Federation is primarily a service organization. Its aim is to facilitate and promote the gathering and dissemination of relevant information about films and film availability. In addition, the Federation serves as an information centre for new groups who want to start a film society and for existing societies to obtain specific information about films. Where needed, the Federation also acts as consultant on operational problems.

#### 1976 Award Competition

The Award Committee extends an invitation for entries in the 1976 Award Competition.

The Dorothy Burritt Memorial Award was established in 1964, in memory of the late Dorothy Burritt, who was one of the co-founders of the Federation in 1954 and one of the chief architects of the Canadian film society movement. In 1975 the name of the Award was changed to The Dorothy and Oscar Burritt Memorial Award.

The Award is made annually and consists of:

*"a grant of money to be presented to an individual or an organization, to permit the carrying out of a planned project, a project in progress, or a completed project, which contributes to the development of film appreciation in Canada."*

The recipient of the annual Award is chosen by competition from the entries received and judged by the Award Committee. For additional information about participating in the Award competition please consult the instructions given on the back of the entry form.

The value of this year's Award is between \$400 and \$450 and, if a suitable candidate is selected, the Award will be presented during the Annual General Meeting of the Federation, to be held in Cornwall, Ont., May 21-24. The closing date for competition entries is **Friday, April 23, 1976.**

There are no restrictions in participating in the Award competition and membership in the Federation is not required.

## CSC

### Canadian Society of Cinematographers

22 Front St. West  
Toronto, Ontario

#### Executive Positions for the year 1976/1977

Nominations for *all* executive positions will be open until the last general meeting prior to our annual general meeting. This year the last date for nominations is April 5, 1976. Members must submit written nominations before the April 5th closing date or come to this meeting prepared to nominate a member from the floor. Ballots must be mailed to out-of-town members in good standing immediately after this meeting so that they can be counted and arrive in time for our Annual General Meeting May 8th.

The following present executive members have already agreed to stand for the following positions:

President: Harry Makin csc

Vice-president:

Secretary:

Treasurer: Roy Tash csc

Education Chairman:

Membership Chairman: Robert Bocking csc

Robert Bocking csc

Publicity Chairman:

Members *must* consult with the person they wish to nominate to be absolutely certain that he/she is willing to stand for the position and will do a good job for the Society. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the March 1, meeting as well. Only members in good standing are allowed to vote at the A.G.M. in May. Be sure your 1975 dues are fully paid up!

**Robert Bocking**

#### Full Membership

As membership chairman of the Canadian Society of Cinematographers I would like to inform all members that the executive and membership committee of the Society is once again reviewing Associate members for elevation to Full Member status. Full memberships are not granted automatically after 10 years as a cameraman, but must be applied for and films must be submitted for viewing by the committee.

If you are an affiliate member, and have been an active, full time cameraman for three years, you now qualify for Associate Membership status. Please let us know your present status so that your membership can be elevated to Associate.

This year, screenings will be held on Saturday April 3. These screenings are held only on an annual basis prior to our Annual General Meeting which will be held on Saturday, May 8, 1976.

Montreal Chapter members should hold their films for further arrangements by the Montreal executive. Screenings are to be held in Montreal as well on another date.

When applying for *Full Membership*, please keep in mind all the requirements, and particularly the need to submit a film that will exhibit your ability to light interiors, either studio or location. Do not submit more than two films and also submit a recent list of credits.

Please send your application and films to:

Robert Bocking, Membership Chairman, csc  
75 Hucknall Road, Downsview,  
Ontario M3J 1W1.

**Do not send to 22 Front Street or your films will be lost!**

Films must arrive no later than Thursday April 1. If VTR Cassette only is available we will make the necessary arrangements.

**Robert Bocking csc cfe**  
Membership Chairman

## SFM

### The Society of Film Makers

7451 Trans Canada Highway  
Ville St. Laurent, Québec  
(514) 333-0722.

As a result of the recent elections, the new Executive of the Society of Film Makers for the current year is as follows:

President: Paul Fritz-Nemeth (Montreal)

Vice-President: David Bairstow (Montreal)

Secretary-Treasurer: Peter Benison (Montreal)

Directors: Christopher Chapman (Toronto); Evelyn Cherry (Regina); Budge Crawley (Ottawa); Stan Fox (Toronto); Wally Gentleman (Montreal); George Kaczender (Montreal); Muriel May (Vancouver).

President Ex-Officio: Peter Adamakos (Montreal).

Within the next weeks an active 1976 program will be under way, and will require a large input of ideas from our members across the country. A constitutional amendment was passed by the required 2/3 majority during the election period which has now opened a new class of membership, Associate Membership for non-professionals (students, apprentices, etc. in the industry or on its fringes). We invite anyone interested in Associate membership to contact the Society.

**Peter Adamakos**

