

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,



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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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
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House of Commons
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K1A 0A6
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4881 rue Coloniale, 4e étage
Montréal H2T 1W5
(514)-849-3641

directeurs
François Barbeau-Louise Jobin-François Laplante

