



## **PERFORMERS HOPEFUL STATUS OF THE ARTIST PROMISE NOT JUST HOLLOW WORDS: ONTARIO BUDGET**

**For Immediate Release:** Toronto, March 22, 2007 – Performers are heartened by the mention in today’s Ontario budget that Status of the Artist legislation will be introduced in 2007.

“We’re hopeful that this signal by Dalton McGuinty’s government that they will be introducing Status of the Artist legislation will actually happen and that it will contain the real progress for artists we’ve been seeking. Progress such as tax relief for artists through an Ontario-based tax deferral system that would allow artists to spread their income over several years, and support for housing for aging artists,” said Karl Pruner, President of ACTRA Toronto Performers.

“ACTRA members and other artists have been to Queen’s Park over and over again in the last year to press for long-promised legislation for artists. This promise that a law will be introduced is several years overdue. Now we need to make sure these aren’t hollow words,” added Pruner.

Pruner acknowledged the budget’s inclusion of additional funding for the Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC).

“I’m glad to see investments to strengthen and invest in our film and television industry through the OMDC,” said Pruner.

ACTRA Toronto Performers is the largest organization within ACTRA, representing more than 13,000 of Canada’s 21,000 professional performers working in the English-language recorded media in Canada. As an advocate for Canadian culture since 1943, ACTRA is a member-driven organization that continues to secure the rights and respect for the work of professional performers.

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