



For Immediate Release
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ACTRA TORONTO SUPPORTS INCOME AVERAGING BILL FOR ARTISTS

Toronto – December 8, 2009 – ACTRA Toronto has thrown its support behind a Private Member's Bill aimed at opening the door to allow artists to average their income over a number of years for income tax purposes.

If passed the Bill, introduced today by MPP Peter Tabuns, would give the government the power to create regulations providing for income tax averaging for artists over a specified number of years. It would also provide for income tax exemptions for artists receiving income from specific grants and royalties.

Canadian film and television star, Wendy Crewson, who joined Tabuns at a press conference, explained the cyclical nature of performers' work "When we have a good year, we pay the high tax that goes with that high income yet the following year we can be scraping to find the money to pay the mortgage. We delve into our RRSPs just to get by or we go into debt, hoping another good year is just around the corner."

Artists are among Ontario's lowest paid workers earning on average 37% less than the Ontario workforce in general. "Among ACTRA members who reported income under ACTRA contracts last year, the average income from their performance work was just \$11,831" said Crewson. "Our members, and indeed all artists, need some help to allow them to make a living from their work" she continued.

Crewson, who has starred in Hollywood blockbusters such as *Air Force One* and *The Santa Clause*, but would prefer to work at home in Canada, added "We need to keep our talent in Canada and we need the government to step up and make it easier to make a living right here in Ontario. Mr. Tabuns' Bill is a positive step in that direction."

ACTRA Toronto is the largest organization within ACTRA, representing over 15,000 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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