



For Immediate Release
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SOME GOOD NEWS / MORE BAD NEWS IN THRONE SPEECH
*Increased foreign ownership threatens Canadian culture and
future of Canadian broadcasting*

Toronto – Today’s Speech from the Throne could have a major impact on Canadian arts and culture industry. Canadian performers applaud digital economy strategy but condemn foreign ownership threat.

“We’re excited to see the government recognize the need for copyright reform and increased IP protection. But we’re very wary of the government’s plan to open the telecommunications industry to foreign ownership, given increasing ownership consolidation with telecoms buying and holding broadcast networks and stations,” said Stephen Waddell, ACTRA’s National Executive Director.

In today’s Speech from the Throne the government announced plans to develop a digital economy strategy which includes stronger intellectual property and copyright laws. But the government also announced plans to threaten Canada’s telecommunications industry by opening the doors to foreign ownership.

“Performers and others have been urging the government to develop a national digital economy strategy in order to best harness Canadians’ creativity and talent. Canada needs fair copyright laws that ensure a balance between the interests of Canadian consumers, makers, and Canadian creators. We look forward to working with the government to ensure that Canada is a world leader in digital media,” said Waddell.

“However we oppose the government opening Canada’s telecommunications industry to foreign ownership - especially with increased consolidation. Simply put, we should not allow our telecoms to be sold off to foreign interests. If Rogers, Telus and Bell are bought by foreign interests, we lose control not only of our telecom/satellite industries, but we’re one small step away from foreigners owning our broadcasting/media industry.” said Waddell.

ACTRA (Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists) is the national organization of professional performers working in the English-language recorded media in Canada. ACTRA represents the interests of 21,000 members across Canada - the foundation of Canada’s highly acclaimed professional performing community.

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