

FILMONTARIO

F I L M · T E L E V I S I O N · I N T E R A C T I V E

March 16, 2020

The Honourable Lisa MacLeod
Minister of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries
438 University Avenue, 6th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1N3

Sent by email: Minister.MacLeod@ontario.ca

Dear Minister MacLeod:

We are writing on behalf of our members in the film and television industry to ensure that they are included in supports provided by your government as part of a COVID-19 response package. As you know, our members include Ontario-based production companies, unions, studios, equipment makers and other organizations in the province's screen-based industry.

We would like to commend the government for announcing that legislation will be introduced to protect employees who are affected by COVID-19. In our industry, there have already been cancellations of productions related to the coronavirus pandemic, and we expect there will be more. Everyone working on those shows will lose income due to these shutdowns.

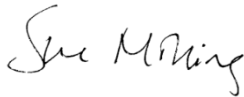
Many in the film and television industry are not classified as employees and as such are not eligible for Employment Insurance. Therefore, we are requesting that any legislation introduced in Ontario providing support to workers affected by COVID-19 specifically include those who work in the screen-based industries, including those who work as independent contractors and through loan-out companies.

Many of the national organizations in our industry [have called on the federal government](#) to address the lack of EI support to workers in our sector when formulating a COVID-19 response. We also ask that you support this request in your conversations with your federal counterparts.

Thank you very much for your support on this matter.



Jennifer Jonas
Co-Chair, FilmOntario



Sue Milling
Co-Chair, FilmOntario



Cynthia Lynch
Managing Director and Counsel,
FilmOntario

cc: The Honourable Monte McNaughton
Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development

Karen Thorne-Stone
President and CEO, Ontario Creates

Kevin Finnerty
Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries