

June 23, 2020

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Canadian Heritage
15 Eddy Street, 12th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M5

Re. Chamber support for film industry and film studios in Greater Victoria

Dear Minister Guilbeault,

The Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce strongly supports efforts to further develop the film industry in our region. The Vancouver Island South Film and Media Commission tells us that the best way to do that is to build professional film studios.

Camosun College and the District of Saanich are committed to doing the work needed to build a Centre for Film and Digital Media at the college's Interurban Campus. The Chamber urges the federal government to help by contributing \$10 million, which will ensure the project is realized. Camosun is providing more than two hectares of land and is eager to develop a post-secondary curriculum required to train professionals for the industry.

As economies recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, investment in infrastructure that creates good-paying jobs will be vital for Canadians. In Greater Victoria, we have the talent and geography that are highly valued by filmmakers. However, we lack the infrastructure needed to provide sustainable employment opportunities. Every film studio built here will add 200 jobs to our region.

The Lower Mainland of BC is at capacity, and major producers such as Netflix and Amazon routinely express interest in filming on Vancouver Island. The one thing holding us back from welcoming these economic opportunities is our lack of appropriate facilities to house these productions. Constructing film studios is the missing piece of the puzzle, as our region already has the hotel capacity and hospitality industry required to host international teams of actors, producers and crews.

We encourage you to invest in the Greater Victoria region now and at every opportunity to support our role in Canada's economic recovery.

Sincerely,



Bruce Williams
CEO,
Greater Victoria
Chamber of Commerce



John Wilson
Board Chair
Greater Victoria
Chamber of Commerce

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**THE
CHAMBER.**
GREATER VICTORIA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE