



IATSE LOCAL 891

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States, its Territories and Canada • British Columbia and the Yukon

January 5, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Action required to better protect child performers' income in BC

As the business representative of IATSE 891, the largest labour union representing artists and technicians working in BC's motion picture industry, I share deep concerns with fellow artists, technicians, and other labour unions about the need for better protections for child performers' income in the recorded entertainment industry.

IATSE 891 works hard to ensure BC is not only a leader in producing world-class content, but in ensuring a safe entertainment industry for all. Our over 9,600 members and 5,000 permittees unite in solidarity to support each other and our fellow entertainment workers in BC in creating award-winning content and safe, fair, and equitable working conditions in the motion picture industry. That is why I am joining others in urging action to address concerns raised by our union-kin UBCP/ACTRA about protecting the rights of child performers.

Current measures in place in BC require that a portion of income earned by child performers be held in trust until they reach the age of majority. The current system is a good start, however, lacks transparency and accountability. As it currently stands, producers in BC must remit 25% of a child performers' earnings above \$2,000 on a production to the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT) to be held in trust until the child reaches the age of majority. A recent survey conducted by UBCP/ACTRA, the union representing cinema, television, and radio performers in BC, found that child performers and their guardians no longer have confidence in PGT, which charges exorbitant fees to manage child performers' earnings.

I support UBCP/ACTRA's call on the province of BC to amend Employment Standards Regulations so that child performers can have their income protected by ACTRA Performers' Rights Society (PRS) Minors' Trust. Child performers in every other jurisdiction in Canada have their earnings protected by ACTRA PRS Minors' Trust, which charges far less than the PGT, and is accountable to the ACTRA PRS Board of Directors. Under the current system in BC, UBCP/ACTRA has heard from its members that child performers often reach the age of majority with less in their trust accounts than what had originally been put in, and that the PGT provides poor communication and transparency. It is time to do more to safeguard the earnings of child performers in BC, who are so critical to the success of our growing motion picture industry.

Sincerely,

Phil Klapwyk
Business Representative of IATSE 891