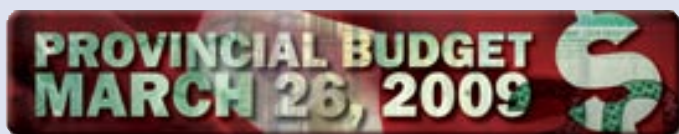


OMDC: "Culture is our Business." Promoting growth and investment in Ontario's book and magazine publishing, film and television, music and interactive digital media industries

PROVINCIAL BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT



The OMDC was pleased to see the following excerpt included in the March 26, 2009 provincial budget:

The Entertainment and Creative Cluster

With employment of 276,000 in 2008, Ontario has the third-largest entertainment and creative sector in North America, after California and New York, and is the leading province in film and television production, book and magazine publishing, and sound recording. Ontario is a solid international competitor in the rapidly growing interactive digital media sector.

The government's ongoing support is helping to strengthen the competitiveness of Ontario's entertainment and creative industries, an important component of the new knowledge economy.

This Budget is proposing about \$100 million annually in additional tax relief and investments of about \$30 million to support the entertainment and creative cluster. These measures include proposals to:

- enhance tax support for the creation of interactive digital media products in Ontario;
- enhance the refundable book publishing tax credit;
- make the enhanced tax credit rates under the refundable film and television tax credits permanent, to create predictability and stability for the industry;
- provide \$20 million to the Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC), an agency of the Ministry of Culture, which supports a number of Ontario's creative industries as they compete domestically and globally; and
- invest \$10 million in a pilot program, administered through OMDC, that would refund a portion of the costs associated with intellectual property development to Ontario-based companies in the screen-based industries.

These changes will be significant in allowing OMDC to continue to provide critical services to the cultural media industries and we join our stakeholders in thanking the Provincial government for recognizing the economic impact of these key sectors, and for committing to these important investments.

OMDC's high notes and highlights from CMW 2009!



On March 12, 2009, Ontario's Minister of Culture, Aileen Carroll, delivered remarks at the Opening Session of CMW.



This year, OMDC was proud to present *Spotlight on China*. A Chinese delegation of 28 companies attended CMW as a result of funding through the Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund. According to CMW president Neill Dixon, this represents the largest delegation of Chinese companies to attend any music industry conference outside of greater China. OMDC and CMW brokered over 260 one-on-one meetings for the Chinese delegation.

OMDC was also proud to be a sponsor of the International Marketplace (IMP) — now in its sixth year. The IMP offered delegates a place to do business and it was at capacity for most of the four days.

An official British Mission of companies was led by the Association of Independent Music (AIM) and organized by AIM and UK Trade and Investment (UKTI). OMDC, in partnership with CMW, pre-arranged 78 one-on-one meetings between 11 UK delegates and 20 Canadian companies.

On Saturday, March 14, OMDC representatives Matt Hilliard-Forde and Jennifer Blitz participated on the *Meet The Funders* panel. Business activity was further encouraged through networking receptions at the IMP including *A Chinese Reception*, *Meet The Brits* and *OMDC's Closing Reception*.

Congratulations to the many Ontario artists and companies that received awards throughout the course of CMW. Here are a few highlights:

Canadian Music Industry Awards:

Best Label of the Year – Arts and Crafts

Canadian Radio Music Awards:

- *Best New Group/Solo Artist* (Hot AC) of the Year: Lights – Drive my Soul
- *Best New Group/Solo Artist* (Mainstream AC) of the Year: Lights – Drive my Soul
- *FACTOR Breakthrough Artist of the Year*: Justin Hines

INDIE Awards Winners -

Ontario-based artists

- *Astral Media Radio Favourite Single*: Lights - Drive My Soul
- *Favourite Group/Duo*: USS
- *Favourite Solo Artist*: Lights
- *Favourite Children's Artist*: Jack Grunsky
- *Favourite Classical Artist/Group*: Canadian Brass
- *Favourite Electronic Artist/Group Or Duo*: Crystal Castles
- *Favourite Folk/Roots Artist*: Kathleen Edwards
- *Favourite Pop Artist/Group*: The Midway State
- *Favourite Punk/Hardcore Artist/Group*: Protest The Hero
- *Favourite Video*: The Trews - Hold Me In Your Arms
- *Favourite Live Artist/Group*: The Trews



Arts and Crafts



Justin Hines



Lights

OMDC takes it From Page to Screen



On March 6, 2009, OMDC hosted the second annual **From Page to Screen** event at Ontario's Investment and Trade Centre. Over the course of a day, 20 Ontario publishers pitched over 40 film and TV producers in approximately 350 one-on-one meetings. The speed-meetings were followed by a reception where publishers and producers could continue to network.



David Caron, ECW Press, Marg Rappolt, Deputy Minister of Culture with OMDC board member Sarah MacLachlan, House of Anansi Press and Karen Thorne-Stone, OMDC President & CEO



One-on-one brokered meetings



Michael McNamara, Markham Street Films, with Gillian Fizez and Barbara Howson, Groundwood Books



Leah Jaunzems, Darius Films and Margie Wolfe, Second Story Press



Catherine Mitchell, Tundra Books and Robin Cass, Triptych Media

Photos by Rick O'Brien

OMDC and Mongrel Media co-host an advance screening of *ONE WEEK* www.oneweek.ca.



On March 2, OMDC and Mongrel Media hosted a well attended special advance screening of *One Week*. Minister Carroll welcomed the audience along with remarks from producer/director Michael McGowan.



Michael McGowan, Producer/Director of *One Week*



Avi Federgreen (Co-producer), Hussain Amarshi, President of Mongrel Media, Minister of Culture Aileen Carroll, Michael McGowan (Producer/Director), Shelagh McNulty (Art Department) and Rod Deogrades (Film Editor)



Greg Sorbara, MPP Vaughan, Michael McGowan, Laura Albanese (Parliamentary Asst. to the Minister of Culture) Hussain Amarshi, Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Hon. John Wilkinson, Minister of Research and Innovation



OMDC board member Kiumars Rezvanifar and Hussain Amarshi



OMDC board member Nathan Gunn with Nicholas de Pencier (Producer)

Photos by Rick O'Brien

OMDC News, Programs and Supported Events

OMDC Enhanced Interactive Digital Media Fund Deadline Announced

May 11 | Calling all Ontario interactive digital media content developers! The Ontario Media Development Corporation is pleased to announce a new deadline for the **OMDC Interactive Digital Media Fund (IDM)**. New this cycle: Maximum contribution level increased to \$150,000; Fee-for-service and minority partnerships between book and magazine, film and television, music or interactive digital media companies are eligible; and two deadlines per year. For updated guidelines, application forms and to sign up for the upcoming information session on April 8 please visit the OMDC website at www.omdc.on.ca and click on Programs / Content and Marketing Funds / OMDC Interactive Digital Media Fund. Information session registration will close at 5:00 p.m. on April 7, 2009.

nGen is very excited to announce the launch of its Job Site. This site will allow employers in the Niagara Region to post available positions. Job seekers will have the ability to post their resumes on this site. Please follow this link to access the job site: <http://www.ngen-niagara.com/en/content/home/jobpostings/jobs-posting/nGen>. The Niagara Interactive Media Generator is a hub for interactive media project and business growth, aimed at the development of an economic cluster in interactive media in Niagara, and is supported by OMDC through the Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund.

OMDC celebrates CEMA's 30th Anniversary

On February 26, 2009, Minister Aileen Carroll brought official greetings from Premier Dalton McGuinty congratulating **CEMA** on their **30th Anniversary**. OMDC hosted a reception in honour of CEMA.



Madeline Ziniak, Chair of CEMA, Ben Vicari, former CEMA President, OMDC board member and CEMA board member, Minister Carroll, OMDC board member and CEMA member Kiumars Rezvanifar with OMDC President & CEO Karen Thorne-Stone



Janus Raudkivi, Sandi Destonis, Kiumars Rezvanifar, Irene Chu, Karen Thorne-Stone, Madeline Ziniak, Leesa Levinson



Minister Carroll, OMDC President & CEO Karen Thorne-Stone with Hon. Michael Chan, Minister of Citizenship & Immigration



Patrick Karlbes, Mamet Arthur, Paritosh Mehta and Adolfo Makuntima



Rozsa Dancs-Telch, OMDC Chair Kevin Shea with OMDC's Karen Thorne-Stone and George Telch

Upcoming Events & Industry Deadlines

New season, new skills Seneca's School of Communications Arts, in association with Aysha Productions, will run a new intensive Documentary and Filmmaking Summer Institute, beginning in June. It builds on the success of the Broadcast Journalism Summer Institute, which began at Seneca five years ago.

The program will run for 14 weeks and provide students with knowledge of:

- production and editorial
- how the broadcast business industry works, including how to pitch, budget, etc.
- critical and historical background of the industry

For more information on the program, please contact: Sunny Yi, Program Coordinator, sunny.yi@senecac.on.ca

May 12-13 | Vancouver, BC. Future Play has partnered with GDC Canada 2009 to bring you a series of influential speakers, panels and sessions to foster thought-provoking and industry-changing ideas. The objective is to provide an atmosphere for discussion and networking between researchers, educators, industry-professionals and students to advance the game industry by focusing on three main themes: **Future Games Development** - addressing academic research and emerging industry trends in the area of game technology and game design; **Future Games Impacts and Applications** - including academic research and emerging industry trends focused on designing games for learning, for gender, for serious purposes, and to impact society; **Future Games Talent** - providing industry and academic perspectives on the knowledge, skills, and attitude it takes to excel in the games industry. More info at <http://www.futureplay.org/2009-home.php>

Congratulations

Congratulations to the producers of *Passchendaele*: Niv Fichman, Frank Siracusa, Francis Damberger, and Paul Gross who were awarded this year's **Golden Reel Award** presented annually to the Canadian film that earns the highest domestic box office in that year. *Passchendaele* has grossed more than \$4.4 million.

On April 1, Canadian director David Cronenberg will receive France's highest distinction, the Légion d'Honneur.

On March 26, Linda Schuyler, the co-creator and executive producer of *Degrassi* was presented with the **Female Eye Maverick Award** at the Female Eye Festival which ran March 25-29.

Ontario author Lawrence Hill's *Book of Negroes* won CBC Radio's **Canada Reads** showdown.

In February, Naomi Klein won the £50,000 **Warwick Prize for Writing** for her 2007 bestseller *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism*.

On March 29, the 38th Annual JUNO Awards were announced in Vancouver. For a complete list of JUNO winners go to www.junoawards.ca. We will profile some of the highlights in our April newsletter.

Upcoming Awards, Markets and Festivals

- Mar. 30-Apr. 3** MIP-TV, Cannes, France. www.mipworld.com/en/MIPTV
- Apr. 4** **29th Genie Awards**, Ottawa, ON. The Genie Awards will take place Saturday, April 4th at the Canada Aviation Museum in Ottawa and will be broadcast on Global Television. For a full list of nominees go to: www.academy.ca.
- Apr. 15-19** **ReelWorld Film Festival**, Toronto, ON. www.reelworld.ca
- Apr. 16-18** **AFCI Locations Trade Show**, Santa Monica, CA. www.afci.org
- Apr. 18-24** **Sprockets International Film Festival for Children**, Toronto, ON. www.sprockets.ca
- Apr. 20-22** **London Book Fair**, London, UK. www.londonbookfair.co.uk
- Apr. 13-26** **Northern Ontario Music & Film Awards**, Sudbury, ON.
- Apr. 25-28** **FITC - A Design & Technology Event**, Toronto, ON. www.fitc.ca
- Apr. 30-May 10** **Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival**, Toronto, ON. www.hotdocs.ca

E-mail your news and events by the third Thursday of each month to newsletter@omdc.on.ca. To add or remove yourself from this newsletter list, e-mail Reception@omdc.on.ca

The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of OMDC

T 416-314-6858

F 416-314-6876

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