

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

Ontario's film & television production up more than 40%



2009 Film & TV Production Statistics

Ontario's film and television industry contributed \$946.4 million to the provincial economy in 2009 – up by 41 per cent over 2008, according to OMDC statistics.

"This tremendous show of strength from Ontario's film and television industry helps demonstrate the enormous competitive advantage that cultural industries give us in the global economy. These industries have had a significant impact on Ontario's economy and continue to show impressive upside potential," said Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism and Culture.

Karen Thorne-Stone, President & CEO of OMDC noted, "We are delighted that Ontario's film and television industry has come back so strongly in such a globally-competitive environment! Despite economic challenges and a strong Canadian dollar, Ontario has consistently demonstrated that it has the right mix of government support, financial incentives, world-class infrastructure, superb talent and skills and diverse locations to attract outstanding foreign and domestic productions. Early indications point to 2010 being another strong year."



(Clockwise from left front) The Honourable Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism and Culture; Karl Pruner, actor and past President of ACTRA Performers Guild; Brian Topp, Executive Director, ACTRA Toronto; Kirk Cheney, Business Agent for I.A.T.S.E. Local 73; Dan McLellan, Executive Vice-President and General Manager, Deluxe Post Production, Kevin Shea, Chair, OMDC; and Karen Thorne-Stone, President and CEO, OMDC, following the OMDC announcement that film and television production was up in the province by more than 40% in 2009.



(L.to R.) Jake Myers, Producer of **Red**, Karen Thorne-Stone, President & CEO of OMDC, Kevin Shea, Chair of OMDC and Donna Zuchlinski, OMDC Manager of Film, answer questions about 2009 film activity at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel where **Red** was filming.

To find out more about Ontario's production activity click:

[2007-09 Ontario Film and Television Production activity chart broken down by format with foreign and domestic levels.](#)

[1989-2009 20-year graph showing Ontario production levels comparing foreign and domestic activity.](#)

OMDC launches Online Application Portal (OAP)



OMDC is digitally transforming the way we do business and making it easier for you, our clients, to apply for tax credits and to our programs by going green in 2010-11 with a paperless, secure [Online Application Portal \(OAP\)](#).

Now you will be able to apply online (including uploading and storing corporate documents), track the status of your applications and communicate with OMDC regarding your applications through the OAP.

Important information:

- OAP registration and creation of [corporate profiles](#) is available now for all applicants.
- Ontario Sound Recording Tax Credit (OSRTC), Ontario Book Publishing Tax Credit (OBPTC) and Ontario Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit (OIDMTC) applications are now being accepted online through the OAP.
- Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit (OFTTC), Ontario

Production Services Tax Credit (OPSTC) and Ontario Computer Animation and Special Effects tax credit (OCASE) applications will be accepted online through the OAP as of **March 22nd**.

- Applicants to Industry Development Programs will apply online through the OAP as those programs roll out throughout the year.

We hope you take the time to get familiar with the OAP by filling out your corporate profile. Sign up for training [here](#).

We have staff available to provide support for questions that you may have. We will be communicating any updates by eblasts and ongoing tips in our newsletter. If you have any questions regarding the OAP, please contact the OMDC at applyhelp@omdc.on.ca or (416) 642-6617.

"The OAP was very easy to use - apart from the huge time savings of submitting everything electronically versus endless photocopying and printing under the old system, it was easily many times faster to fill it in online versus filling out the forms manually. Better yet, I think the real savings comes in the future, from being able to use the same information in later filings now that the system already has a record of my information that I can update as needed."

- Jim Laird, CFA Managing Director & CFO, Bedlam Games Inc.

OMDC program deadlines

Ongoing | OMDC's Industry Development Program now incorporates the previous OMDC **Trade Organization Support** and **Domestic Markets and Events** programs. The program offers financial and, where appropriate, strategic support to established trade and event organizations that are undertaking initiatives that provide business growth and business development opportunities for Ontario cultural media companies. Guidelines are now posted on our website at <http://www.omdc.on.ca/Page5564.aspx>. For further information contact: programs@omdc.on.ca

Ongoing | OMDC Intellectual Property (IP) Development Fund assists Ontario corporations by providing a refund of 30% of prior costs incurred in direct support of eligible early stage development activities to bring screen-based content properties closer to production or market-ready stage. Qualifying Ontario corporations may apply for expenditures incurred over the course of a taxation year that relate to a slate of early stage development activities undertaken by the corporation. Eligible expenditures are those incurred after March 31, 2009 up to and

including March 31, 2010. Applicants may apply up to twice during the span of the pilot program. Applicants must submit their application to OMDC at the end of a taxation year in which the applicant has incurred expenditures for eligible early stage development activities (Year End Application). If the applicant chooses, they may also file an Interim Application prior to their taxation year end. To be eligible to file an Interim Application a qualifying corporation must still meet all of the eligibility requirements set out in the guidelines, including the requirement to have incurred a minimum \$30,000 in early stage development costs. Guidelines and applications forms are available at <http://www.omdc.on.ca/Page5575.aspx>.

Please note, we have made a change to the documents required for this application. We will no longer be requiring audited financial statements for companies with revenues of more than \$500,000. Regular financial statements will suffice. Please see the downloadable Intellectual Property Development Fund Application form at the link above for details.

Updated OMDC Industry Profiles online

OMDC has updated our [Industry Profiles](#). OMDC compiles Industry Profiles to provide information on the size and economic impact of each of the cultural media industries that we serve, drawn from publicly available research and statistical reports. The profiles also provide information on trends and issues facing the sectors. These profiles are updated twice a year. If you have comments on or information to add to the profiles, please don't hesitate to contact us at research@omdc.on.ca.

Tax Update:

In a continued effort to decrease overall processing time on files, as of April 1st 2010 we will be implementing a new policy: the OMDC Tax Credits & Financing Programs department will only review complete applications received in our office. It is our hope that by limiting the amount of incomplete applications received and prioritizing the complete applications, we can deliver a higher level of customer service and ultimately have certificates issued sooner.

OMDC-supported events at Canadian Music Week 2010 (CMW)

OMDC is pleased to support the following two events at CMW: **Spotlight on India**, funded through the Entertainment and Creative Cluster Partnerships Fund, will see up to 25 key music and broadcasting industry execs from India attending CMW from March 10 to 14 to discuss business partnerships, licensing, touring, sponsorship, publishing and mobile music. Connect with the incoming delegation at CMW by attending panels and participating in organized one-on-one meetings. The initiative also provides market intelligence to assist Ontario companies develop strategies for India, and works with the expanding Ontario-based Indian communities to promote Indo-Canadian artists who are eyeing opportunities in India.

OMDC will once again take an active role in sponsoring the 7th annual **CMW International Marketplace** in the Territories Room and the Algonquin Room of the Fairmont Royal York Hotel. The International Marketplace provides a variety of alternatives for delegates to meet potential business partners from around the world — one-on-one, face-to-face, business-to-business and country-to-country.

For additional information relating to the International Marketplace please contact Kathy Hahn, Manager International Marketplace at kathy@cmw.net. To connect with the India Mission delegates please contact Evelyn Cream at ec@athena-music.net.

Upcoming events & industry deadlines

Mar. 11 | Application deadline to apply for **Trans Atlantic Partners** (TAP): September 14-20, 2010. When asked about Trans Atlantic Partners, Ontario Producer Michael Dobbin wrote, "Co-production is not only alive and well, but it is the way forward for films aimed at the world market. For a few intense days, the world comes to Trans Atlantic Partners." Following an incredibly successful flagship year, Trans Atlantic Partners will take place once again this year with Module 1 kicking off in Berlin, June 19-24, 2010 and Module 2 in Halifax, September 14-20, 2010. Trans Atlantic Partners gives producers the necessary tools and knowledge to maneuver through the complex arena of international co-production and to overcome the legal and financial barriers. The Program is designed specifically to strengthen ties between the Canadian and European screen industries and provide excellent networking opportunities. TAP is designed for producers with at least five years of professional experience in the film and television industry. Participants should have experience in producing film and/or television, but not necessarily with international co-productions. Check out the following link for additional information: http://www.epi-medieninstitut.de/pn-programm_seminar-205_en.html

Ontario at MIDEW was a hit!

OMDC, along with 40 Ontario companies, hosted another very successful full-capacity MIDEW reception, with over 200 guests in attendance. As well, **The Canadian Blast Showcase** featured three OMDC-supported artists – Jully Black, Danny Fernandes and Matthew Barber. The artists played to a packed house, standing room only, with a queue to see this line-up.



Jully Black



Danny Fernandes



Matthew Barber

Congratulations

On February 19, ACTRA Toronto announced the winners of the **2010 ACTRA Awards** at The Carlu in Toronto.

- **ACTRA Award for Outstanding Performance – Voice - Julie Lemieux, *Spliced***
- **ACTRA Award for Outstanding Performance – Female - Kathleen Munroe, *Flashpoint***
- **ACTRA Award for Outstanding Performance – Male - K.C. Collins, *Guns***
- **Peter Keleghan presented Colin Mochrie with ACTRA Toronto's 2010 Award of Excellence.**

(L. to R.) Outstanding Performance – Male winner, K.C. Collins, Outstanding Performance – Voice winner, Julie Lemieux, ACTRA Toronto President Heather Allin, Outstanding Performance – Female winner Kathleen Munroe and 2010 Award of Excellence recipient, Colin Mochrie.



photos by Jag Gundu

Congratulations

Spongelab Interactive, an Ontario-based educational gaming company, with its third major international award, earns critical acclaim by making science fun! Spongelab Interactive has been awarded first prize for the second year in the Interactive Media category of National Science Foundation's 2009 Visualization Challenge, and is published in the current edition of the Journal of Science (February 19, 2010 - Vol. 327. no. 5968, p. 946-948) featured on the National Science Foundation's website. More info at www.spongelab.com & www.exploreGDL.com

Upcoming awards, markets and festivals

Mar. 1	Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television announces the 30th Annual Genie Awards nominations. Toronto, ON. www.academy.ca
Mar. 9 – 13	Game Developers Conference (GDC), Moscone Center, San Francisco, CA. www.gdconf.com
Mar. 10 – 13	Canadian Music Week (CMW), Toronto, ON. www.cmw.net
Mar. 12 – 21	24th Annual South By Southwest (SXSW), Austin Convention Center, Austin, Texas. http://sxsw.com
Mar. 12 – 16	South By Southwest Interactive, Austin, Texas. http://sxsw.com/interactive
Mar. 12 – 20	South By Southwest Film, Austin, Texas. http://sxsw.com/film
Mar. 16 – 18	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Frames 2010, Mumbai, India. http://www.ficci-frames.com
Mar. 17 – 21	South By Southwest (SXSW) Music, Austin, Texas. http://sxsw.com/music
Mar. 22 – 25	14th Edition FILMART - Hong Kong International Film & TV Market, Hong Kong, China. http://www.hkfilmart.com/filmart
Mar. 23 – 25	Bologna Children's Book Fair, Bologna, Italy. http://www.bookfair.bolognafiere.it
Mar. 25	4th Annual BookNet Canada Technology Forum, Mars Centre, Toronto, ON. http://www.booknetcanada.ca/
Apr. 7 – 11	10th Anniversary of ReelWorld Film Festival, Toronto, ON. http://www.reelworld.ca
Apr. 15 – 17	AFCI Locations Trade Show, Santa Monica, CA. http://www.afci.org/events/lts.htm
Apr. 17 – 23	Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children, Toronto, ON. http://www.sprockets.ca/default.aspx
Apr. 20 – 22	The London Book Fair, London, UK. http://www.londonbookfair.co.uk/
Apr. 29 – May 1	2010 Northern Ontario Music and Film Awards Conference, Sudbury, ON. http://www.musicandfilminmotion.com
Apr. 29 – May 9	Hot Docs 2010! Toronto, ON. http://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

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