

CREATIVE / FILM INDUSTRY

The creative industry in BC, supporting arts and culture, film, television, music, publishing, and the interactive and digital media industries, generated **\$5.2B to the provincial economy** in 2016 alone. BC is one of the largest centres for film and television production in North America.

Today the industry works in all 7 Township communities, producing feature films, TV series, made-for-TV movies, commercials as well as documentaries. The industry is vested in maintaining positive relationships with neighborhoods and communities in order to continue to be welcomed. In 2018 alone, there were over 1,700 film-days permitted in the Township, representing over 135 separate productions. Each year, **the industry invests millions of dollars in direct spend** in the Township's local economy through the acquisition of services and the purchase of goods. According to provincial agency Creative BC, in 2017, close to 1,700 Township residents worked in film, an industry which provides **high-paying jobs**. Today, more than 25,000 British Columbians are employed by the film industry in BC.

Since 1999, the Township has had a **Filming Guideline** in place to provide general direction to entities interested in producing film in all communities within the Township. This Guideline was last updated in 2013 through an extensive stakeholder engagement and public consultation process. In 2013, Township Council equally adopted a **Filming Policy** that acknowledges the Township's support for the film industry in the community, recognizing the economic and social benefits generated. The Policy provides for general direction and decision making supportive of the creative sector's investment in our local economy. Every film request to the Township is handled individually by staff to evaluate conflicts, risks, etc., to maximize success, and to ensure balance for our residents and community.

Established in 2013, and a 1st in BC, the Township endorsed the creation of the **Community Partners in Film Reserve**, a non-statutory reserve that productions can contribute to in support of future small community capital improvement projects (benches, street banners, public art, picnic tables, playgrounds). Further, all productions

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Useful Links

ActSafe
actsafe.ca

BC Council of Film Unions
bccfu.com

Creative BC
creativebc.com

Canadian Media Production Association
cmpa.ca/cmpa-bc

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contribute by virtue of the Township applying all film application fees to this reserve. By year-end 2017, the Reserve had collected \$27,000.

In Q4 2016, the Agricultural Land Commission adopted Policy L-22 "Activities Designated as a **Permitted Non-Farm Use**: Gathering for an Event in the ALR" which manages permitted events such as gatherings, weddings, festivals, concerts and events. Within "events", amongst others, 'film and theatrical presentations' were included which restricts occurrences of filming on agricultural lands to no more than 10, single-day occurrences in a year. As filming is temporary in nature, and as many film productions work in the Township for the purpose of filming scenes that feature farms, pastures, and nature, Creative BC is working with the Agricultural Land Commission to ensure respective interests are protected.

In Q1 2017, the BC Government **realigned provincial film tax credit program boundaries** to include the complete jurisdiction of the Township. As a benefit, the Township is equally realizing sector diversity from

traditional film production to the **emergence of film studio investment through the establishment** of new film studios. In 2018, Netflix secured five-year stage agreements with studios in northwest Langley.

In 2017, the Township partnered with Metro Vancouver's Regional Prosperity Initiative on a regional film application portal. In 2018, this initiative transitioned to Creative BC for leadership. The initiative would see the future launch of a centralized system for film productions to access and remit standardized forms and to follow standardized processes; a value-proposition to enhancing the Metro Vancouver region's film-friendly reputation and increasing its competitive sector advantages.