

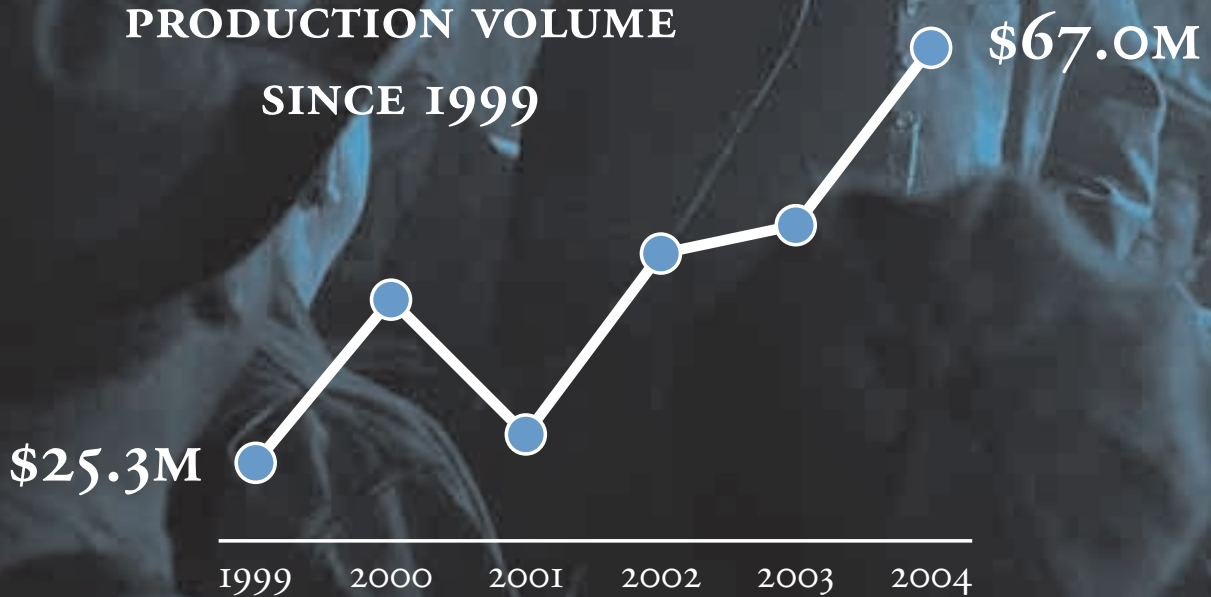


SASKFILM

YEAR IN REVIEW

2004/2005

PRODUCTION VOLUME  
SINCE 1999



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2004/2005

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## YEAR IN REVIEW 2004/2005

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## 1 INDUSTRY OVERVIEW FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

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With the fiscal 2004 year having drawn to a close, Saskatchewan's film, television and interactive producers, production crew, unions and guilds can relish in their success knowing that we have produced a record-breaking \$65 million in production volumes. It was our busiest and most successful year yet and represents a 53% increase over the previous year.

Now, in our Centennial year, growth and opportunity for Saskatchewan's film and television industry continues. Our economic impact is significant. From 1990 to today, production volumes have grown by a remarkable 1300%. Our production studios, whom director Terry Gilliam said are among the best in the world, operated at close to 70% capacity last year.

This year's watershed moments include: production on season two of the hit television series *Corner Gas*; completion of *The Tommy Douglas Story*, a four-hour mini-series that chronicles the life of Saskatchewan's most famous political figure; continuing dramatic series *Mocassin Flats* and *renegadepress.com*; Saskatchewan's first long-form animated film *A Fairy Tale Christmas*; and groundbreaking documentaries including *Escape from Iran*, *Ted's Story*, *Honouring Melissa* and *Indecently Exposed*.

In addition to our growing roster of local productions, this year we welcomed director Terry Gilliam and award-winning producers Jeremy Thomas and Gabriella Martinelli to the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios and the scenic Qu'Appelle Valley to film *Tideland*. Infinity Media and New Line Cinema selected Regina and Moose Jaw to film their romantic comedy *Just Friends* starring Ryan Reynolds and Chris Klein. Both films will be released in the fall of 2005.

It's our bounty of Saskatchewan-made productions and our competitive ability to attract productions from the U.S. and abroad that has placed the province in the spotlight as a creative hotbed and a first-class place to do business. The Globe and Mail went so far to publish a full page article on the Saskatchewan film and television industry entitled "Boom Time on the Prairie".

Our specialized labour force, our state-of-the-art production facility, our competitive financial incentives and the cooperation of our cities, towns and small businesses have positioned Saskatchewan's film, television and interactive industry for continued growth in to the province's second century.

*"It was a joy working in Saskatchewan. The enthusiasm, hard work and good spirit of the crew made my experience pleasurable and memorable"*

Terry Gilliam, director, *Tideland*



(from top to bottom, left to right)

- A** Behind the scenes of *The Tommy Douglas Story* (Minds Eye Entertainment)
- B** Amy Smart and Ryan Reynolds star in *Just Friends* (Infinity Media/New Line Cinema)
- C** *Indecently Exposed* (WestWind Pictures)   **D** The cast of *Corner Gas*, season two (Vérité Films)



## 2 SASKATCHEWAN PRODUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

With record breaking production volumes, wildly successful homegrown programs and high-profile off shore feature films, Saskatchewan's film and television industry has experienced its most successful year. In 2004, the province hosted two-time Oscar nominated director and *Monty Python* alumnus Terry Gilliam; the province's first studio-commissioned production; a highly anticipated miniseries on the life of Tommy Douglas and continues to be home to several returning television series, including Canada's top-rated comedy series *Corner Gas*.



renegadepress.com / Vérité Films

The province's team of established, award-winning producers played a significant role in the year's record levels of production. Powerhouse production companies such as Vérité Films continue to produce two dramatic television series – *Corner Gas* for CTV and *renegadepress.com* for APTN and TVO; while Emmy Award winners Partners in Motion produce three returning documentary series for national and international broadcasters. Industry veterans WestWind Pictures generated national attention for their provocative documentary *Indecently Exposed* – an unflinching look at racism in Canada that premiered on CBC's *The Passionate Eye*. Cooper Rock Pictures produced a harrowing look at the consequences of impaired driving with *Ted's Story*. Arid Sea Films produced their long form drama *Two Museums* and exhibited it in small towns across the province.

6 “Initially, the tax credit incentives are what drew me to look at the province as a film locale. What I found was state of the art soundstage right in the middle of Regina, equipment houses, film friendly locations and resourceful, hardworking crewmembers. The experience I had shooting “Just Friends” in Regina and Moose Jaw exceeded all of my expectations and our film is the better for it”

Rob Merilees, producer, *Just Friends*

Although Saskatchewan's more experienced producers lay the foundation of the industry, the province's emerging filmmakers reached significant milestones over the past year. Saskatoon's Cheshire Smile Animation and Rain Drop Productions hired 35 animators from the city's animation school and created *A Fairy Tale Christmas* - Saskatchewan's first long form animated drama. From storyboard to complex digital animation, the production is set for release for the 2005 holiday season. 291

Film Company, comprised of University of Regina Film Studies graduates Ian Toews and Jason Britski pursued a television series that grew out of their own interests as artists. The two traveled to the most remote corners of Saskatchewan with the province's leading visual artists and captured their inspiration for their art. The result was *Landscape as Muse*, a 13 episode half-hour series for regional broadcaster SCN and national performing arts network Bravo.

After premiering at Sundance, production company Dark Thunder Productions capitalized on the success of their stop-motion animated program *Christmas at Wapos Bay* and developed the province's first animated television series pilot *Wapos Bay - The Series* for APTN. The project is a lighthearted look at life in northern Saskatchewan

with a distinctly Aboriginal flavour. *Wapos Bay* attracted the attention of animation pioneers National Film Board of Canada and will be broadcast on APTN in fall 2005. Regina filmmaker Brett Bell wrote and produced *Slatland*, a one-hour drama commissioned by Bravo while emerging producer Dacian Productions celebrated the province's Centennial with *100 Saskatchewan Stories* - 100 one-minute vignettes chronicling the history of Saskatchewan. From drama to documentaries and animation to interactive programs, it is clear that Saskatchewan's independent filmmaking community is flourishing.



*Ted's Story / Cooper Rock Pictures*



*Two Museums / Arid Sea Productions*

#### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Saskatchewan hosted its first studio-commissioned feature film *Just Friends* - a production of Los Angeles based Infinity Media/New Line Cinema
- Saskatchewan film and television producers produced over 100 hours of original made-in-Saskatchewan programming
- There are currently 3 dramatic television series produced in Saskatchewan broadcast on national networks
- Saskatchewan made national and international news when Academy Award nominated director Terry Gilliam chose the Qu'Appelle Valley and the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios to film *Tideland*

### 3 SASKFILM PROGRAMS AND INDUSTRY INITIATIVES

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SaskFilm's programs and initiatives are designed to foster the growth of the film, television and interactive industry in the province and to promote the achievements of the industry around the world. By actively consulting with the film and television industry in Saskatchewan, SaskFilm is able to monitor trends and address particular industry demands by refocusing programs to address particular issues in the changing marketplace.

This year, SaskFilm responded to the industry's lack of access to broadcast and acquisitions executives and the demand for script development training by implementing the *Breakfast with a Broadcaster* forums and Saskatchewan's first Screenwriter in Residence program. Saskatchewan

*“Having accessed The Filmmaker Program on several projects right from the beginning of my career, it is clear to me that I would not be where I am today without its support.”*

Ian Toews, director/producer of the documentary series, *Landscape as Muse*

filmmakers and producers were provided an exclusive opportunity to meet with industry decision makers from Global Television, CBC Newsworld, CTV, History Channel and Discovery Network to discuss projects and build new business relationships for the future.

The Writer in Residence program provided six aspiring writers with an opportunity to workshop their scripts under the guidance of veteran scriptwriter Bill Boyle. The program is designed to promote the development of Saskatchewan-based scripts and for participants to polish and prepare their projects for the Canadian and international marketplace.

This past fiscal year, SaskFilm supported in 12 drama series; 18 documentary series/programs, 8 feature films and 4 interactive projects and provided 19 filmmakers with the means to become export ready and promote their projects at festivals and markets around the world.

## DEVELOPMENT LOANS

Project Name	Applicant	SaskFilm	Description
<b>2 Human</b>	101013739 SK Ltd. (IMP Inc.)	\$10,000	<i>Feature</i>
<b>Concert in Canna</b>	Cooper Rock Pictures	\$5,000	<i>Documentary</i>
<b>Constant Craving</b>	Rain Drop Productions	\$3,000	<i>Documentary Series</i>
<b>Damon</b>	Minds Eye Development	\$15,000	<i>Drama Series</i>
<b>Fear of Landing</b>	Fire Horse Films	\$3,000	<i>Feature</i>
<b>Flight From Darkness</b>	Alta Nova Pictures	\$7,000	<i>Documentary</i>
<b>Green Grass, Running Water</b>	RGB Productions / Brevity Films	\$20,000	<i>Feature</i>
<b>Land of the Yodeling Mushroom People</b>	Prairie Threat Entertainment / IMP Inc.	\$3,000	<i>Drama Series</i>
<b>Landscape as Muse - Season II</b>	291 Film Company	\$4,800	<i>Documentary Series</i>
<b>Mad Cow, Sacred Cow</b>	Kahani Entertainment	\$4,000	<i>Documentary</i>
<b>Martensville Nightmare</b>	4 Square Productions Canada Ltd.	\$15,000	<i>Feature</i>
<b>Pray For Me</b>	WestWind Pictures	\$10,000	<i>Drama Series</i>
<b>Rabbit Fall</b>	Angel Entertainment Corporation	\$3,380	<i>Drama (Short)</i>
<b>renegadepress.com - Season III</b>	Renegade Press Productions III Inc.	\$17,461	<i>Drama Series</i>
<b>Saturday Night in Saskatchewan</b>	WestWind Pictures	\$4,000	<i>Documentary</i>
<b>Shadows</b>	Gaia Film Group	\$10,410	<i>Feature</i>
<b>The Sale Pelletier Story</b>	Minds Eye Entertainment	\$8,380	<i>Movie-of-the-Week</i>
<b>The Scandal of the Century</b>	Stephen Onda Productions / Platt Productions	\$7,000	<i>Feature</i>
<b>The Sin Eater</b>	Novina Motion Pictures / RGB Productions	\$10,000	<i>Feature</i>
<b>The Velvet Devil</b>	WestWind Pictures	\$10,000	<i>Drama Program</i>
<b>Two Armies</b>	Kahani Entertainment / Chocolate Box Entertainment	\$5,000	<i>Documentary</i>
<b>Wasteland</b>	IMP Inc.	\$15,000	<i>Feature</i>
		<b>\$190,431</b>	

## FILMMAKER PROGRAM

Project Name	Applicant	SaskFilm	Description
Convertible Woman	Zoot Capri Entertainment	\$3,600	<i>Experimental</i>
Grasslands: Where Heaven Meets Earth	Birdsong Communications	\$5,000	<i>One-Hour Documentary</i>
Landscape as Muse - Season II	291 Film Company	\$5,000	<i>Documentary Series</i>
Rabbit Fall	Angel Entertainment, Kahani Entertainment	\$10,000	<i>Drama (short)</i>
Shuya Show	J Shabatoski, J Tewksbury, D Stefanyshyn	\$5,000	<i>Drama (short)</i>
Slatland	Bellimage	\$15,000	<i>Dramatic Television Program</i>
The Whole Day Through	Adam Budd	\$3,000	<i>Drama (short)</i>
The Year I Ran in the Woods	No Shooting Productions	\$10,000	<i>Drama (short)</i>
		<b>\$56,600</b>	

## DOCUMENTARY PROGRAM

Project Name	Applicant	SaskFilm	Genre
100 Saskatchewan Stories	Dacian Productions	\$25,000	<i>13-part Series</i>
Circus of God	Partners In Motion	\$20,000	<i>Broadcast One Hour</i>
Crime Stories (20 to 25)	Partners In Motion	\$15,000	<i>6-part Series</i>
Disasters of the Century (40 to 47)	Disasters of the Century III Inc.	\$10,000	<i>8-part Series</i>
Kicking High	Cooper Rock Pictures	\$11,250	<i>Broadcast One Hour</i>
Mahony's Men	Sure Fire Video Productions	\$12,000	<i>Broadcast One Hour</i>
The Donnellys	Partners In Motion	\$20,000	<i>Broadcast One Hour</i>
To Be Romeo & Juliet	Zima Junction Productions	\$10,000	<i>90-minute Documentary</i>
Wandering Spirit	Birdsong Communications	\$15,000	<i>Broadcast One Hour</i>
		<b>\$138,250</b>	

## SASKTEL NEW MEDIA FUND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SASKFILM

Project Name	Applicant	SaskFilm
100saskatchewanstories.com	Dacian Productions	\$10,247
Destination Digital	PJ Rusnak	\$1,750
Destination Digital	Tim Tyler	\$1,750
Destination Digital	Bob Rock	\$1,750
Destination Digital	Dennis Jackson	\$1,750
Destination Digital	Gail Bryanton	\$1,750
Destination Digital	Ryan Lockwood	\$1,750
Ms. Periwinkle's Fun Files	Cheshire Smile Animation Inc.	\$25,000
RenegadePress Online II	Renegade Online Inc.	\$25,000
The Courage, The Power	101059892 SK Ltd.	\$10,000
		<b>\$80,747</b>

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## SASKFILM SPONSORSHIPS

Applicant / Event	Saskatchewan Event	National Event	International Event
Queer City Cinema	\$500.00		
Corner Gas Launch	\$1,000.00		
U of R Graduate Screening Prize	\$500.00		
NextFest 2004	\$5,000.00		
City of Regina/Saskatchewan Arts Board Art @ Work	\$500.00		
Flicks Film Festival 2005	\$3,000.00		
Yorkton Short Film & Video Festival / Golden Sheaf Awards		\$5,000.00	
Strategic Partners International Co-Production Conference		\$2,500.00	
Meet Canada in Berlin 2005 – Berlin Film Festival			\$3,000.00
Canadian Talent in LA Directory 2004			\$750.00
Independent Feature Project 2004			\$3,322.75
		<b>\$10,500.00</b>	<b>\$7,072.75</b>

## SASKFILM MARKET AND FESTIVAL TRAVEL ASSISTANCE

<b>Chris Triffo</b> <i>Gemini Awards</i> \$750.00	<b>Lori Kuffner</b> <i>Banff 2004</i> \$1,400.00	<b>Stephen Onda</b> <i>Toronto International Film Festival</i> \$1,162.00	<b>Dennis Hrapchuk</b> <i>Reel Screen</i> \$1,461.85
<b>David Belluz</b> <i>Gemini Awards</i> \$702.00	<b>Dennis Jackson</b> <i>Banff 2004</i> \$1,000.00	<b>Stephen Onda</b> <i>Strategic Partners - Atlantic Film Festival</i> \$1,263.50	<b>Anand Ramayya</b> <i>International Documentary Film Festival – Amsterdam</i> \$2,744.00
<b>Evan Rust</b> <i>Gemini Awards</i> \$500.00	<b>Wally Start</b> <i>Banff 2004</i> \$1,500.00	<b>Ron Goetz</b> <i>World Congress of History Producers</i> \$1,000.00	<b>Gail Bryanton</b> <i>Mission to Australia</i> \$2,000.00
<b>Stephen Onda</b> <i>Gemini Awards</i> \$750.00	<b>Lori Kuffner</b> <i>Hot Docs</i> \$1,000.00	<b>Gerald Sperling</b> <i>World Congress of History Producers</i> \$1,000.00	<b>Rhonda Baker</b> <i>CFTPA</i> \$1,322.00
<b>Ian Toews</b> <i>2005 World Expo</i> \$1,000.00	<b>Gail Tilson</b> <i>Cannes</i> \$2,500.00	<b>Wally Start</b> <i>MIPCOM</i> \$1,500.00	<b>Ron Goetz</b> <i>MIPTV</i> \$3,000.00
<b>Michael Snook</b> <i>Banff 2004</i> \$1,390.51	<b>Stephen Onda</b> <i>Cannes</i> \$2,500.00	<b>Stephen Onda</b> <i>American Film Market</i> \$1,920.00	<b>Lori Kuffner</b> <i>MIPTV</i> \$3,000.00
<b>Max Stadnyk</b> <i>Banff 2004</i> \$1,500.00	<b>Lori Kuffner</b> <i>MIPCOM</i> \$2,500.00	<b>Doug Cuthand</b> <i>World Congress of History Producers</i> \$1,025.90	
<b>Tony Hrynchuk</b> <i>Banff 2004</i> \$1,000.00	<b>Ron Goetz</b> <i>MIPCOM</i> \$2,500.00		

*“The Market and Travel Assistance program has provided me the opportunity to build new relationships with broadcasters and buyers around the world”*

Lori Kuffner, documentary producer and president of Cooper Rock Pictures



*Midnight Massacre – The Donnelly Murders/Partners in Motion*

## 4 THE SASKATCHEWAN FILM EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDIT

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Established in 1998, the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit Program (SFETC) has proven to be an invaluable resource to Saskatchewan independent, co-venture and service productions. The program is user-friendly and reduces overall production costs, which allows the Saskatchewan film and television industry to remain competitive in a changing global industry while simultaneously contributing to the economic growth of the province. Since its inception in 1998, the program has proven to be an integral component of the industry's marketability and accounts for significant growth in production over the past seven years.

As one of the most competitive and comprehensive tax credit programs in Canada, the SFETC offers up to 35% rebate on all approved labour up to a maximum of 17.5% of the eligible production cost. In addition, the program offers a 5% bonus on Saskatchewan expenditures for projects that are produced 40 kilometers outside the cities of Regina and Saskatoon.

Unlike other tax credit programs, the program reduces overall labour costs by including above and below the line labour costs and includes a 'deeming' provision for offshore producers to hire key members of their production team from outside the province in return for training a Saskatchewan resident. User-friendly and production-oriented, the program has been instrumental in attracting offshore producers to Saskatchewan and has been essential in building the province's local film and television industry.

Through a contribution agreement with the provincial government, SaskFilm is responsible for the administration of the SFETC. During the 2004/2005 fiscal year, 76 applications were processed by the SaskFilm office for both letters of registration and final certificates with a projected total of \$19,228,798 in tax credits. During the fiscal year 2004/2005 the Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation for Saskatchewan signed 43 certificates, which totaled \$7,591,064 in tax credits for Saskatchewan film, television, video and interactive productions.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- *User-friendly and production-oriented incentive program*
- *Includes above and below the line labour costs, reducing overall production costs*
- *Offers the attractive 'deeming' provision whereby out of province crew can be considered a local in return for training and mentorship of a Saskatchewan crew member.*
- *Provides additional incentive to film 40 kms outside the major urban centers in return for an additional 5% on production expenses.*

## 5 SASKATCHEWAN LOCATIONS

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As the Film Commission for the province of Saskatchewan, SaskFilm provides customized and comprehensive locations services for local and offshore producers. Committed to delivering client satisfaction and establishing long term business relationships, the office offers script breakdown services, access to a general and custom photo library, scouting services throughout all areas of the province, as well as ground transportation and accommodation during location scouting for prospective producers.



City of Saskatoon

More than just prairie, Saskatchewan's diverse terrain and surprising topography can deliver a variety of creative needs for many projects, whether they require urban cityscapes, historic towns, rugged badlands, scenic river valleys, dense northern forest and 100,000 pristine lakes and rivers. Saskatchewan towns and cities offer a competitive cost of production, diverse variety of locations and first class support services to meet the needs of any production. This year, the cities of Regina and Moose Jaw filled in for New Jersey and downtown Toronto; the historic towns of Claybank and Gravelbourg served as 1930s era Saskatchewan and the undulating countryside near the Qu'Appelle Valley filled in for Texas.

Due to Saskatchewan's increased profile in the international film and television industry, SaskFilm responded to 50 requests for specific locations information and services over the past fiscal year. This represents a 100% increase in locations activity since 2002.

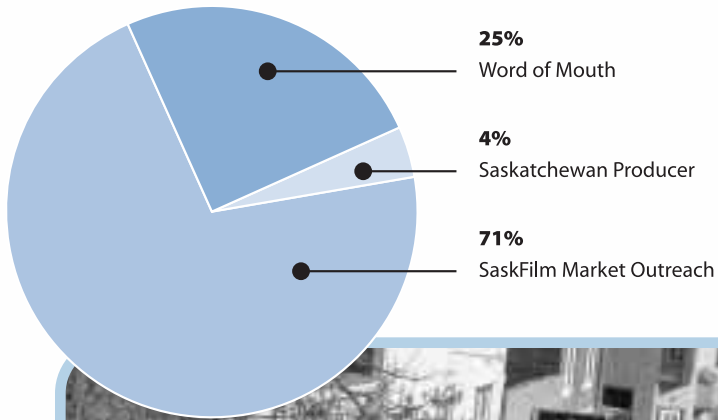
To promote Saskatchewan locations and production incentives, SaskFilm attended several key markets to promote the province as a potential film location and to develop co-production contacts across Canada and abroad. The Corporation attended Cannes Film Festival, Berlin Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Banff Television Festival, MIPCOM, MIPTV, Independent Feature Project and the American Film Market.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

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- *Extraordinary range of locations and terrain from historic towns, urban municipalities and pristine lakes and rivers*
- *Lakes, rivers, valleys, towns and villages minutes from major cities*
- *Locations are film friendly and residents enthusiastic about the industry*
- *Cooperation of rural, municipal and provincial governments*
- *Comprehensive locations services and film commission support*

ORIGIN OF LOCATIONS INQUIRIES AND SCOUTS



(from top to bottom, left to right)

- A** *The Tommy Douglas Story* on location in Gravelbourg (Minds Eye Entertainment)
- B** Downtown Moose Jaw   **C** City of Regina   **D** Prince Albert National Park
- E** *Landscape as Muse* on location in Grasslands National Park (291 Film Company)



## 6 THE CANADA SASKATCHEWAN PRODUCTION STUDIOS

A partnership of municipal, provincial and federal governments, the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios (CSPS) is a state-of-the-art facility built from the ground up to accommodate the special technical and soundproofing needs of film and television industry. The size, height and amenities of the stages within the facility make them among the largest and most comprehensive soundstages in Western Canada.

Established in 2002, the CSPS is a purpose-built facility located within a 2,300 acre lake side park just ten minutes from the central business district in the city of Regina. The facility offers four stages of varying sizes totaling 30,475 square feet, 42 foot ceiling heights, fully furnished production offices, and a complete array of support facilities and services including wardrobe, art department, carpentry, paint, makeup/hair, set storage and breakdown area, camera lock-up, VIP dressing rooms, green rooms, lunch space and on-site cafeteria.



*Tideland* in production in Studio 4 in the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios



The Honourable Harry Van Mulligan, Minister of Finance, the Honourable Joan Beatty, Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation and Valerie Creighton, CEO of SaskFilm visit the studios and meet director Terry Gilliam

Home to Saskatchewan's hit comedy series, *Corner Gas*, the studios are a critical part of SaskFilm's marketing initiatives to attract offshore producers to film in Saskatchewan. Over the past fiscal year, the studio was occupied by Capri Films/Recorded Picture Company for Terry Gilliam's feature film, *Tideland*, Infinity Media/New Line Cinema's romantic comedy *Just Friends* and the dramatic mini series *The Tommy Douglas Story* among others.

The studios combined with the incentives of the tax credit program, experienced production crew and a wide variety of accessible locations has established Saskatchewan as an appealing location to film feature films, television series, television movies and commercials from Los Angeles to Tokyo.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Purpose-built for the film and television industry
- The most state of the art production facility between Toronto and Vancouver
- Studios are located 10 minutes from Regina airport and from the city center
- Four studios allow two or more productions to film simultaneously
- Technical benefits include recessed floor; clear span 40 foot high ceilings, advanced electrical and HVAC systems to accommodate a wide range of special effects

## 7 ECONOMIC IMPACT

In 2004, a combination of service and local production topped \$67 million, which in turn generated \$50 million in direct expenditures in the province. Clearly, Saskatchewan's film and television industry has spawned a quantifiable, significant return on investment for Saskatchewan's cities and towns; small and medium sized businesses such as hotels, car rental agencies, equipment rentals, construction, cell phone companies, restaurants and has simultaneously developed a skilled, well-compensated labour force.

On average, a film or television production expends approximately 55% of its budget on labour costs. The employment impacts of the production business are statistically significant relative to other industries, even within the cultural sector. Each direct job in the film and television industry accounts for the creation of an additional 1.96 jobs within the province in related industries.

In order to evenly distribute the economic returns across the province, Saskatchewan's tax credit program offers a unique feature that rewards production companies that choose to film a portion of their project 40 kilometers outside of Saskatoon and Regina. Moose Jaw, Gravelbourg, Rouleau, Fort Qu'Appelle and Lumsden – all small Saskatchewan towns - have hosted major film productions and have reaped the economic rewards. Across the province and in most business sectors, Saskatchewan's film and television industry continues to deliver economic benefits to the people of Saskatchewan.

*“Saskatchewan’s film and television business is valuable to Moose Jaw as it not only provides us with significant economic benefits for our small businesses, but also promotes us as a progressive, growing community in the province”*

Brian Martynook, Executive Director of the Moose Jaw Chamber of Commerce

### A \$10 MILLION PRODUCTION GENERATES

- 2500 hotel room nights and accommodation rentals;
- 50,000 catered meals;
- \$125,000 in vehicle rentals;
- \$1 million in equipment rentals;
- a skilled, well-compensated labour force;
- and countless purchases at cell phone companies, lumber yards, paint shops, taxis, limousines, restaurants, nightclubs, dry cleaning companies and all other service and hospitality industries

## 8 CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The provincial film, television and interactive industry is a significant player in the development and export of Saskatchewan cultural products. In partnership with government and industry partners, the industry has established unprecedented opportunities that nurtures, develops, exhibits and promotes Saskatchewan culture within the province, across Canada and around the world.

Through SaskFilm's programming initiatives, SCN's commitment to broadcasting Saskatchewan programming, the Saskatchewan Motion Picture Industry Association's professional development programs and other significant funding partners, the Saskatchewan film and television industry has developed a new culture-based economy that fully exploits this province's wealth of stories, people, history and achievements. From *Corner Gas* and *The Tommy Douglas Story*, to *Pierre le Canadien* and *Wapos Bay*, the film



*Wapos Bay - The Series,*  
*Dark Thunder/Kahani Entertainment*

and television industry has inspired our province's creative talent to seek out stories and myths, heroes and villains and bring them to life on screen in Saskatchewan and around the world.



*Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival 2004*

By investing in the filmmakers of tomorrow through industry programs and initiatives, and supporting Saskatchewan-based film festivals and programs, SaskFilm plays a pivotal role in creating an environment that nurtures the writers and

filmmakers of tomorrow and celebrates their successes along the way at the Yorkton Short Film and Video Festival, Showcase Flicks Children's Festival and Next Fest, the digital video festival.

### KEY BENEFITS

- *The film and television industry is uniquely positioned to encourage, explore and promote Saskatchewan stories, history and achievements around the world*
- *The growth of the film and television industry has spawned increased employment opportunities in creative positions including writers, directors, actors, artists, editors, set designers and more.*

## 9 THE SASKATCHEWAN ADVANTAGE

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In spite of a less competitive currency exchange and competing tax credit programs from other Canadian provinces, United States and eastern Europe, Saskatchewan remains confident in continuing to cultivate strategic relationships with industry executives and veteran film and television producers in Los Angeles, New York, Berlin and Cannes. Like most regions, the province's team of experienced, award winning producers; skilled and enthusiastic production crew; a new state of the art production facility; the province's untouched, scenic locations and financial incentives allow Saskatchewan to competently compete in the world market.

*“The province’s locations, facilities, incentives and people made Saskatchewan the perfect fit for Tideland,”*

Gabriella Martinelli, CEO and producer,  
Capri Films

### *Saskatchewan’s Current Production Incentives*

- » User-friendly tax credit incentive program
- » A first-rate state of the art production facility that has hosted studio features and series production to movies of the week and commercials
- » Award winning producers and service producers with significant credits and experience
- » Enthusiastic and professional production crews, unions and guilds

The competitive international marketplace has forced Saskatchewan’s film and television industry to recognize the need for value-added services and additional benefits to attract off-shore production to the province. In addition to the industry’s existing production incentives, SaskFilm has initiated *The Saskatchewan Advantage* – a philosophy that demonstrates and promotes the province’s ability to deliver often undervalued benefits to visiting producers and distinguish ourselves from our competitors.

### KEY BENEFITS

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- *Delivers significant return on investment for each project over larger centres through a commitment to client service and fostering long-term working relationships with local and visiting producers*
- *Provides film commission services that include the facilitation of production partnerships, production and location problem solving and liaison services with all levels of government, unions and guilds.*
- *Uniquely fulfills a variety of creative needs for each production through untouched locations, modern studio facilities and enthusiastic production crew and production partners*
- *Offers low cost of doing business and film-friendly cities, towns and locations*

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1831 COLLEGE AVENUE REGINA | SASKATCHEWAN | CANADA S4P 3V7

T: (306) 798-3456 | F: (306) 798-7768 | TOLL FREE: 1-800-561-9933