

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release*

### **SASKFILM ANNOUNCES AGGRESSIVE ENHANCEMENTS TO TAX CREDIT PROGRAM AT AMERICAN FILM MARKET**

***Producers now eligible for 55% on each project***

**November 3, 2005 (Santa Monica, CA/ Regina, SK)** – Following an announcement made by the Government of Saskatchewan this morning, the Saskatchewan Film and Video Development Corporation (SaskFilm) announced new enhancements to the province's tax credit program at the American Film Market in Santa Monica.

Local and visiting film and television producers are now eligible for **up to 55 per cent in tax credit rebates on each project**, making the program among the most comprehensive and competitive tax credit programs available in North America. Unlike some other programs, Saskatchewan's new tax credit enhancements are available to *each* production, without obligation to film additional projects in the province to qualify for an additional rebate.

"Today's announcement clearly demonstrates that Saskatchewan is competitive and can deliver the incentives and essential infrastructure required for a vibrant local and offshore film and television industry," said Valerie Creighton, C.E.O and Film Commissioner of SaskFilm.

Effective January 1, 2006, the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit program will **increase the base tax credit to 45 per cent of the total wages of all eligible above-the-line and below-the-line Saskatchewan and deemed labour**. Deemed labour can include non-Saskatchewan labour on those positions that provide training to a Saskatchewan resident.

Saskatchewan's rural bonus provides for an **additional 5 per cent bonus of total production expenditures in the province for productions that choose to film in smaller centers and rural areas** (25 miles or more from the province's major cities, Regina and Saskatoon). The rural bonus has allowed visiting and local producers to take advantage of Saskatchewan's historic towns and villages, scenic river valleys, pristine lakes and rugged badlands all within 25 miles of Regina and Saskatoon.

**Saskatchewan's new key position bonus** offers an **additional 5 per cent** for those productions which choose to hire specific Saskatchewan crew members and technicians in both below-the-line and above-the-line positions. This incentive is eligible on projects that attain 6 out of 10 points on positions ranging from director to production coordinator.

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Coupled with the province's experienced crew base and the state-of-the-art production facility, the Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios, Saskatchewan's new financial incentives are production-oriented, user-friendly and designed to encourage both local and visiting film and television production.

Saskatchewan's film and television industry has experienced its most successful year with both local and offshore production. From home-grown dramatic programs such as *Corner Gas*, *The Tommy Douglas Story*, *renegadepress.com* and *Mocassin Flats*; ground-breaking documentaries *Escape From Iran: The Hollywood Option*, *Ted's Story*, *Indecently Exposed* and *Psychadelic Pioneers* and high-profile offshore production such as Capri Films/Recorded Picture Company's *Tideland*, directed by Terry Gilliam; Infinity Media and New Line Cinema's romantic comedy *Just Friends*; and Ghost House/Mandate Pictures/Columbia Pictures' horror feature *The Messengers* directed by the Pang Brothers.

**SaskFilm and Video Development Corporation (SaskFilm)** enables the film, television and interactive industry in Saskatchewan to continually enhance the quality, quantity and marketability of its products and resources. SaskFilm was established to stimulate and foster the development of an indigenous film, video and new media industry through the administration of the Saskatchewan Film Employment Tax Credit Program; management of the state of the art Canada Saskatchewan Production Studios; and by providing financial assistance to qualified production companies for purposes of developing, producing and distributing film, video and interactive products. Visit [www.saskfilm.com](http://www.saskfilm.com).

**Contact:**

**At the American Film Market:**

Kerry Fraser  
Communications Officer  
Saskatchewan Film and Video Development Corporation  
Cell: 1 306 535 8260  
Email:kfraser@saskfilm.com