

August 18, 2020



To London City Council re: Film Commission for London, Ontario

I'm writing in support of the motion put forward by Michael van Holst regarding the Film Commission for London.

As a London-born television professional who has worked in the industry across Canada, I recognize the value of this business to our city with its outstanding locations, its current and potential talent and its capacity for growth.

The television and film industry is a multi-billion dollar business in Canada, and it's unique in every way. Standard business models don't apply. The creative services rely on great spaces and a professional to guide producers through potential filming locations. That includes everyone from indie local filmmakers, to television and documentary producers, to major feature films and dramatic series production houses.

The GTA is still busting at the seams and our low dollar and tax incentives continue to draw production north of the border. Smaller communities that are film friendly are capitalizing on this rush and boosting businesses who provide services to these productions.

I truly do believe that opening that door and setting up a film office and commissioner to facilitate this unique industry will be an excellent investment for the city. But that is just the start. London is home to some of the best radio, television and film schools in the country. Yet OIART, Fanshawe and Western grads are forced to leave the city when they graduate. My sincere hope is that we can build an industry to employ our up and comers, as well as the many pros who have already settled in London seeking out an affordable, affable and liveable home. I'm proud to be among them.

I fully support this initiative and believe in the benefits it will bring to our city. It's only a matter of getting started.

All the very best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Peckham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Kelly Peckham
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