

London City Council
300 Dufferin Ave,
London, ON
N6B 1Z2

August 15, 2020

RE: Film Commissioner

Dear London City Mayor and Council Members,

Greetings from a citizen of the States!

My good friend Michal Van Holst ask me if I would write you today to talk about your town getting a film commissioner and expand filmmaking here in London.

My answer to him was “yes!”

I am an American actor who has made his home for the last six months, here, in beautiful London as a grateful visitor.

It is a very fine city, to be certain. However, as one with thirty years in the film industry, I was rather baffled that a town of this size, beauty, friendly citizens and financial resources did not have it's own film commission. I know this because Mike Van Holst told me the same.

As a TV and film actor who has worked across the USA and internationally, I have seen and can attest to the significant economic benefits that come to communities willing to host film and television productions.

To change a colloquialism: There's film cash up in them' thar hills.

Having made my home in London for the last half-year, I would say that London and the surrounding area have many of the locations and vistas that a production company would desire, that this city has sufficient amenities to be a host, and that it would even provide some advantages over larger cities I have worked in.

As both a producer and actor, I have seen how the pandemic forced the industry into a dormant period of content creation but, with safety protocols having now been created, is really picking up steam - fast.

If you wanted it to, you could make London humming with production.

Michael showed me a proposal and it seems quite solid to me.

In film and television, word travels fast. Your psychiatric hospital location in St Thomas is now hosting its second major production. If London proves itself to be a supportive and flexible host to a few productions, more will certainly follow. I suggest that helping those of us from the USA to navigate the Canadian tax credits will also be an important role for the film commissioner.

I am very grateful to be part of such a creative industry and I believe that many of your citizens if given the opportunity will feel the same.

Should London open itself wide to USA production, know that I would be first in line to film here.

Sincerely,
Ted Raimi

