



OPEN ENTERTAINMENT INC.

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

August 22, 2020

For the public added agenda regarding a film officer:

Dear Mayor Holder and Council Members,

As the owner of Open Entertainment Management, based out of Los Angeles and the former owner and President of Kirk Talent Agency, based out of Vancouver, I have been successfully representing actors internationally for over thirty-five years. In order to be closer to my aging parents, I made the decision to relocate and move back to Elgin County two years ago. Upon doing so and after taking a look at the vast industry potential in this area I reached out to Councillor VanHolst to see how I might offer my knowledge and expertise in order to advance this growing regional film industry.

Toronto is now one of the top film and television production cities in North America and is literally running out of space to film. Producers are looking outside of the GTA for new production hubs and unique locations to shoot. London could clearly be at the top of that list. I see this as a regional effort as London has the ability to be the base for filming in many nearby locations. Two of the important ways to accomplish this are to advocate for regional tax credits and establish a point of contact such as the film office that you are planning.

Please remember that a film office is not just about helping the film industry. It is about helping all the many industries that support a film or television production. A film brings money to restaurants and caterers, to hotels, to trades like carpenters, electricians, and painters, to all those involved in logistics like car and truck drivers. There are very strong economic benefits that come with this industry and hundreds if not thousands of people are employed as a result.

London has the opportunity to be a leader to the region and benefit by having much more to offer the industry in terms of locations, talent and support. I hope you will vote in favour of the plan and invest the money required to take advantage of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Lesla Kirk

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