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# Nova Scotia film and TV industry gets \$6.9-million boost

Nova Scotia film and TV producers want to tell the outside world they're ready to do business.

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Apr 6, 2017 5:37 PM by: Andrea Nemetz



*Nova Scotia has many long-running television series, including the CBC-TV comedy Mr. D, which was renewed for a seventh season on Thursday, the same day the provincial government announced an additional \$6.9 million for the Nova Scotia Film and Television Production Incentive Fund.*

Nova Scotia film and TV producers want to tell the outside world they're ready to do business, says Mike Volpe.

The industry is a game of perception, says Volpe, the chairman of the board of directors of [Screen Nova Scotia](#), which represents the 1,600 people working in film, television and digital animation in this province.

"When your stock is rising people feel comfortable investing in you; you need to be perceived as a going concern."

On Thursday, the provincial government announced an additional \$6.9 million will be added to the Nova Scotia Film and Television Production Incentive Fund, bringing the total budget for the program to \$16.9 million. The "increase from last year's fund is in response to forecasted growth in film and television projects lined up to shoot in the province this season," says a news release from the Department of Business.

Volpe says that sends the right signal.

"As we climb back from a couple of years ago, I'm happy the government has confidence in the industry and is renewing and increasing its support. It's what we need to compete with the rest of the industry in Canada and internationally."

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The Nova Scotia film and TV industry took a hit in April 2015 when the provincial government cut the former tax credit.

It was replaced in July 2015 with the Nova Scotia Film and Television Production Incentive Fund, "which provides between 25 and 32 per cent of eligible costs such as labour, goods and services purchased from a Nova Scotia-based supplier," says the news release.

Administered by Nova Scotia Business Inc., the fund has helped support 50 productions, including last summer's big budget mini-series *The Mist*, based on a Stephen King novel.

"This represents almost \$23.9 million in funding commitments, and \$82.9 million in spending in Nova Scotia. Those approved productions, which span several fiscal years, can be found at [www.nsbi.ca/filmfunding](http://www.nsbi.ca/filmfunding)," says the release.

Many who worked in the province's film industry left to find jobs elsewhere after the tax cut. Only some have come back, says Volpe.

"We're rebounding. We took a stumble and we've dusted ourselves off and are starting to hit our stride again. We're definitely moving in the right direction."

A longtime producer of TV's *Trailer Park Boys* and its three spin-off movies, Volpe, the president of Topsail Productions, is currently executive producing the CBC-TV comedy series *Mr. D*.

He had an extra reason to be happy as [Mr. D](#) received news Thursday that it would be renewed for a seventh season. He noted it was good news for all the cast and crew who had worked on the series over the last six summers.

"We're blessed to have series that tend to be long-running series," he says, referencing Trailer Park Boys and This Hour Has 22 Minutes, which he joked was in its 170th year. (It actually wrapped its 24th season recently.)

While the incentive fund is in place, it is still up to producers to find the way to use it, Volpe said. "We have to get broadcasters and film distributors involved and actually make projects happen, to convince others that what we're doing is worth it creatively."

To read the release from Screen Nova Scotia, click [here](#).

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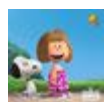
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