

March 16, 2020

A note from the Film Commissioner

These are exceptional times and we know that you, as Toronto Film Office partners and clients, are facing significant challenges. I'm writing to let you know how we are working to offer support now, and what you can expect from us in the future.

What we're seeing is that many current productions are choosing to go on hiatus, and productions that were starting shortly are pushing to a date in the future. Some productions are choosing to continue because they may have a small crew, and some are still working their way through this difficult decision. In whatever way we can help, we're here to support you.

Regarding permitting, in accordance with provincial recommendations regarding large gatherings, we will not issue permits for shoots involving more than 250 people. In addition, we will issue permits in compliance with municipal closures, including: civic and recreation centres, greenhouses and conservatories, arenas, pools, fitness centres, ski hills, libraries, City-operated museums and galleries. We are also aware and sharing knowledge of ongoing closures of major sites in Toronto such as the TDSB and TCDSB schools, the ROM, the AGO, Casa Loma, the CN Tower, etc., and we remain in close touch with Transportation and Parks as information and restrictions are constantly evolving. Limitations on permits will be adjusted to comply with government requirements as they evolve, so please get in touch directly with the Film Office for updates.

In addition to working to support the industry now, we are already thinking about how we can help advance recovery when we're on the other side of this profound disruption. Today, the Mayor is meeting with a group of industry leaders for our first consultation to understand impacts and how we can help. We will also continue to depend on the advice and guidance of the Toronto Film, Television and Digital Media Board, and will reach out to stakeholders to find out what you need that the City could provide. We are aware that the industry has launched a number of task forces related to COVID 19, and we're participating.

We all know this situation is changing rapidly, and the Film Office's response will be adjusted accordingly. Every major film production jurisdiction is facing the same challenges we are. You have made Toronto one of the top production hubs in North America, and I know our talented and tight-knit community will share support while we're going through this, and plan now for the recovery that is to come. xoTO

Marguerite Pigott

Film Commissioner and Director of Entertainment Industries

City of Toronto

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