

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Action required to better protect child performers' income in British Columbia

The Directors Guild of Canada, British Columbia (DGC BC) represents over 1600 creative and logistical personnel in the film and television industry. Our Members work closely with their professional colleagues, and we stand aligned about the need for better protections for child performers' income in the entertainment industry.

The DGC BC is a strong advocate for a safe entertainment industry for all. We support the measures put in place to hold a portion of income earned by child performers in trust until they reach the age of majority. We are writing to you in support of UBCP/ACTRA's call to allow child performers and their guardians to better protect these earnings by keeping them with the ACTRA PRS Minors' Trust.

A recent survey conducted by UBCP/ACTRA found that child performers and their guardians have lost confidence in the Public Guardian and Trustee (PGT). The PGT charges exorbitant fees to manage child performers' earnings and lacks the transparency that the ACTRA PRS Minors' Trust provides. Conversely, the ACTRA PRS Minors' Trust exists exclusively to hold child performers' earnings and has a dedicated staff available to answer questions and who work hard to ensure that their funds are protected and guaranteed, while yielding a better interest rate than the PGT.

Child performers are critical to the success of our film and television industry. It's time that we acknowledge and respect their contributions to this industry by allowing them to better safeguard their earnings by making the necessary amendment to the Employment Standards Regulations.

Sincerely,



Allan Harmon  
DGC BC Chairman



Kendrie Upton  
Executive Director