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## Important **Bargaining News!** For Producers



**ACTRA Bargaining Update #1 - October 27, 2006**

**Dear friend,**

With this bulletin we begin a regular set of updates on how negotiations are proceeding between ACTRA and the CFTPA/APFTQ.

We think it's important that you know what is going on in these discussions, seen from the POV of the professional actors and performers who work with you every day on your sets.

Negotiations began this week, and very much to our regret went very badly indeed.

The CFTPA/APFTQ tabled wage proposals that would have the effect of cutting the pay of professional performers by 10 to 25% on substantially every domestic Canadian show. (unfortunately, a bulletin issued by the CFTPA about their own proposals yesterday is not accurate on this point).

The CFTPA/APFTQ also proposed to gut the residuals system.

And the CFTPA/APFTQ proposed to significantly erode the working conditions of actors - for example, reducing turnaround time to 10 hours, among many other regressive proposals.

We think you need to know that there is no prospect of an agreement on these terms. You know your actors. ACTRA members would not ratify such an agreement.

ACTRA for its part tabled a set of proposals designed to maintain industry stability, while making incremental, step-by-step progress on the pay and working conditions of actors.

We proposed that the pay gap between ACTRA and Screen Actors Guild members working on the same sets in high-budget U.S. feature films be closed in steps over the next five years (in other words, we're aiming for numerical parity with SAG rates on big-budget U.S. features - by the year 2012).

We are also trying to ensure that the pay gap between ACTRA and SAG on shows below that level gets no wider.

We proposed incremental improvements to residuals and working conditions. We're willing to negotiate all of this. But we're not willing to go in exactly the opposite direction - 30 years backwards.

### **A bit more colour about how things went:**

In the discussions this week, ACTRA asked the CFTPA/APFTQ to explain its digital media proposals, which had been represented to us as the key producer concern. After a lengthy delay the CFTPA/APFTQ confessed they could not explain their proposals and needed to re-submit them "later."

The CFTPA/APFTQ's other proposals are quite clear - and entail a systematic, point-by-point stripping of pay, residuals and working conditions of actors.

We asked if the CFTPA/APFTQ had any questions on our own proposals. They had none.

In these circumstances we said that in our view the best thing for both sides is to bring in a neutral third party to mediate in these discussions.

We also expressed our regret that the CFTPA/APFTQ chose to leave so little time until the expiry of our agreement to begin these talks. This past winter, we proposed that negotiations begin last March, aiming to have this all done by last summer. The CFTPA/APFTQ insisted instead on pushing these negotiations tight against the expiry date, despite their stated concern for stability.

We're now waiting to hear from the government mediator.

Our bargaining committee will make itself available any time, to try to find a reasonable settlement that works for both parties. We're hoping the CFTPA/APFTQ will do the same.

**We'll keep you posted. For more information check out [www.actra.ca](http://www.actra.ca).**