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Toronto - Canadian Actors' Equity Association supports the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA) in its ongoing contract dispute with the Canadian Film & Television Production Association (CFTPA). Negotiations between ACTRA and CFTPA broke down on December 20 after producers tabled a shamefully low pay offer and demanded free internet rights. No new negotiations are scheduled.

"Equity shares ACTRA's disappointment that film and television producers are deliberately provoking a dispute that will only serve to hurt the arts industry as a whole" said Susan Wallace, Executive Director of Canadian Actors' Equity Association. "The CFTPA is attacking the livelihood of Canadian Artists in the name of profit and undermining Canadian culture at its most vulnerable point."

ACTRA had recently tabled a comprehensive settlement offer which included increased flexibility for the use of performances on the internet, significant wage concessions for low-budget independent Canadian producers and new terms for 'reality' television. In response, the CFTPA offered a three-year 0%, 0% and 1% wage proposal on Canadian productions and maintained a contract requirement demanding work from Canadian performers on the internet for free.

ACTRA is in a legal strike position in most of Canada starting January 1, 2007. Equity members, whether or not they are also ACTRA members, should not perform any service which ACTRA considers to be struck work on or after that date.

Equity members should contact their local ACTRA office (contact information by region is available at http://www.actra.ca/actra/control/nat_contact) if they are offered CFTPA struck work or have a contract beginning on or after January 1, 2007. Equity members may find out more information about the potential strike at <http://www.actra.ca/>.

The Association will endeavour to provide members with current information as soon as possible while this situation unfolds.

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