



Media union backs striking actors - "talent should be fairly paid"

OTTAWA, Jan. 9 /CNW Telbec/ - The association representing Canadian film and television producers needs to bring its bargaining positions into the 21st century, says Canada's largest media union.

"Canadian actors should be reading lines not walking them. This strike is a disgrace which falls directly at the foot of the CFTP," says Peter Murdoch, Vice-President, Media, for the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada. ACTRA, the union representing professional performers, went on strike yesterday with the issue of pay for new technology being central to the dispute.

"The suggestion that talent should not be fairly paid for work simply because it shows up on a new media is thinking out of the middle ages. If studios and production companies are earning revenue from new technology, it makes sense that those providing the content do also.

"Canadian talent is rightfully not prepared to walk backward in an age when media technology is moving forward."

CEP and its Toronto-based film and television production local are in full support of the position taken by ACTRA. "Our members run the risk of being affected by this dispute," says Jonathan Ahee, President of NABET/CEP Local 700, the Canadian technicians' union, "but we know Accra's position is fair, reasonable and not too costly for producers. We're with them."

Murdoch says CFTP should rethink its hard line and get back to the bargaining table before too much damage is done to the production industry.

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