



January 5, 2026

To the Attention of:

- Regional District of Nanaimo, 6300 Hammond Bay Road, Nanaimo, BC V9T 6N2
- City of Nanaimo, 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6
- City of Parksville, 100 Jensen Avenue East, PO Box 1390, Parksville, V9P 2H3
- Town of Qualicum Beach, #201 660 Primrose Street PO Box 130 Qualicum Beach, BC V9K 1S7

**Re: Letter Regarding 2026 Bridge Funding for Island North Film Commission**

Dear Regional District Chair and Directors, Mayors and Councillors,

I am writing to seek clarification and direction regarding the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) Board's recent decision to discontinue financial support for the Island North Film Commission (INfilm).

We learned of this decision through media reports quoting Electoral Area Director Wallace, who suggested that if Nanaimo and Electoral Areas A, B, and C wish to continue funding INfilm, the board should review the matter.

This decision comes at a critical juncture for our 25-year partnership. While concerns have been raised regarding the distribution of economic benefits, our data confirms the impact is truly regional. Residents across all electoral areas benefit from employment through film industry spending at hotels, restaurants, and services. Furthermore, many experienced crew members have relocated from Vancouver to our rural communities, which provide the essential locations that attract projects and drive "film-induced tourism."

Significant regional economic impacts include:

- Domestic Production: Series and films such as Chesapeake Shores, Wrecked, and Seagrass have utilized locations across Parksville, Qualicum Beach, and Gabriola Island.
- Service Production: Major studio projects including The Last of Us, Disney's Descendants 2, Resident Alien, Godzilla, Superman, Twilight, Untamed, and Sonic the Hedgehog have utilized local services from Cassidy to Qualicum Bay.

The recent MNP State of the Island Economy Report highlights the importance of the growth of the film industry on Vancouver Island, particularly as other sectors face contraction.

Over the last 30 years, INfilm has facilitated over \$250 million in direct local economic impact. We currently maintain a database of 4,000 unique locations and have trained or recruited a local crew base of over 730 members.

As a non-profit economic development organization, INfilm acts as a vital link to the motion picture industry. We recognize that regional services do not always fit traditional grant in aid criteria; however, the lack of a finalized funding methodology for the RDN's economic development portfolio has created significant uncertainty. With 2026 budget deliberations nearly finalized, there is little time to revert back and initiate new individual funding applications through the City of Nanaimo, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach. This instability jeopardizes upcoming projects, including a large-budget U.S. television series currently scouting locations from the Nanaimo River to Qualicum Falls for Fall 2026.

We request that the communities of Nanaimo, Parksville, and Qualicum Beach provide bridge funding for 2026 through the RDN. This will allow us to maintain core regional services while we collectively determine a sustainable funding model for 2027 and beyond.

We look forward to discussing how we can continue this partnership to ensure the mid-Island remains a premier destination for the motion picture industry.

Best regards,



Joan Miller  
Executive Director  
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