



COMPUTER ANIMATION STUDIOS OF ONTARIO

**CASO is a non-partisan, not-for-profit industry association committed to the growth and international competitiveness of Ontario's animation and visual effects industry, through advocacy, professional development, and marketing initiatives.**

## **Accomplishments June 2019 – December 2019**

**Folks, here is your CASO mid-term update since our June AGM**

### **Mission Commitment: Advocacy**

#### **Ontario Government**

- CASO facilitated studio tours for (then) Finance Minister Fedeli, and continued now that he is Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, continuing to engage him fully in understanding the nature, scale and growth of our industry.

#### **Red Tape Reduction Proposal**

- CASO spent the summer working with our Studio Members to develop studio owner consensus to respond to the Province's request for recommendations to improve OCASE efficiencies and competitiveness. Our Red Tape Reduction submission asked that this government untether OCASE from OFTTC and OPSTC.
- We will continue this work during the pre-budget 2020 cycle, commencing in December 2019.

#### **Fall Economic Statement 2019**

- CASO worked with the Provincial government to ensure the 2019 Fall Economic Statement did not challenge/call for a review of OCASE rates, and its Vendor status.
- Our work with the new Tourism, Culture and Sport Minister contributed to the renaming of the Ministry to include "Culture Industries". It is now Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries, recognizing the fact that screen-based industries are economic drivers for Ontario.

## **Federal Government**

### **CRA**

- CASO successfully concluded our work with CRA, and working group partners FilmOntario, CMPA and Ontario Creates in ensuring fairness and transparency regarding CRA audit practice specific to OCASE, including projects still in the pipeline.
- CASO further led the development of clarifying OCASE contract language, which CASO Vendors can include going forwards, and we ensured CRA support for same.

### **Statistics Canada**

- CASO also worked with vfx and animation companies across the country for a common submission for the Federal Statistics Canada consultation regarding NOC codes (Occupation codes) and the need to develop an official subset/category for Digital Artists, to assist with immigration policy priorities.

### **Toronto Film, Television, and Digital Media Board**

- CASO has retained its dedicated board seat, for this new election cycle.

## **Mission Commitment: Professional Development**

- This Fall, CASO held a Business Seminar for Members on the Federal review of Broadcasting and Telecommunications industries, led by our friends at CMPA.
- CASO delivered member discounts to attend the Ottawa International Animation Festival, Animation Lounge software training and upgrading, join the Canadian Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, and attend Movie Expo.
- CASO delivered a 1 page summary of the Employments Standards Act 2000 geared for our members.

## **Mission Commitment: Marketing Initiatives**

- CASO members were invited to participate in the Ontario Creates FamTour for top LA clients, which included television, gaming, feature film, and OTT executives.
- CASO's Communications Plan has moved from Phase One: new Website, to Phase Two: CASO Social Media, including facebook and twitter.

**[www.casont.ca](http://www.casont.ca)**