

**ACTRA TORONTO
COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

PRESENT

ABSENT

Kate Ziegler, President, in the Chair
Paul Constable, Treasurer
Elana Dunkelman, Vice-President
Jameson Kraemer, Vice-President
Amy Matysio, Vice-President
Mercedes Morris, Vice-President
Jinny Wong, Vice-President
Tim Beresford
John Cleland
William Cole (Zoom)
Shelley Cook, alternate for Angelica Lisk-Hann
Adolyn Dar (Zoom)
Izaiah Dockery
Emily Hurson
Sally Nakazi, alternate for Tamara Podemski
Samy Osman, alternate for Asante Tracey
Dina Pino (Zoom and in-person)
Anand Rajaram
Gord Rand
Roy Urbanozo
David Wallen
Kara Wooten

COMMITTEE, CAUCUS CHAIRS & OMBUDSPERSON

Heather Allin, Co-Chair, TAWC (Zoom)
Matt Lemche, Co-Chair, outACTRato (Zoom)
John McGrath, Ombudsperson (Zoom)
Jessica Nudo, Vice-Chair, AABP Caucus (Zoom)
Tonjha Richardson, Co-Chair, TAWC (Zoom)

GUEST

Toria Summerville, Co-Chair, Disability Alliance Subcommittee

OBSERVERS (On Zoom and In-person)

George Alevizos	Sandy Crawley	Sarah Deakins	Jacob Lang	Zen Lenore	Em Siobhan McCourt
Alex Milner	Daniella Mooney	Oscar Moreno	Linda Joyce Nourse	Paulino Nunes	Geoff Scovell
Ann-Marie Zammit					

ALSO PRESENT

Nicole Fournier, Director, Member Services, ACTRA Toronto
Gail Hauptert, Director, Contracts & Production, ACTRA Toronto
August Lew, Director, Finance & Administration, ACTRA Toronto
Luisa Alvarez Restrepo, Director, Inclusion and Community Development, ACTRA Toronto
Luca De Franco, Public Relations Officer, ACTRA Toronto
Jennifer McGibbon, Public Relations, Officer, ACTRA Toronto
Freda Merritt-Gambrill, Recording Secretary, ACTRA Toronto

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am with President Kate Ziegler, in the Chair.

The reading of the Land Acknowledgement by Jameson Kraemer was followed by the reading of the Equality Statement by Elana Dunkelman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #1

Moved by Roy Urbanozo and Amy Matysio:

“That the Agenda for the ACTRA Toronto Council Meeting of February 11, 2026, be accepted.”

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 6, 2026

Page 5: Motion #4 should read “seconded by Mercedes ~~Morris Watson~~”.

Page 7: Awards Update – 3rd and 4th sentences should read: “We are working in tandem with ~~Riva Reva~~ at Yellow House. We paid \$5,000 last year to ~~access approximately get the~~ \$30,000 of in-kind support.”

MOTION # 2

Moved by Gord Rand, seconded by Paul Constable:

“That the Minutes of the ACTRA Toronto Council Minutes of January 6, 2026, as amended, be accepted.”

CARRIED

TABLING OF OTHER BUSINESS

- Election Report
- Game Shows and Contestants – Jameson Kraemer
- AI Rider – John Cleland
- Word from Set – Gord Rand

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Ziegler reported.

“First, thank you to everyone for your patience and for stepping up as I’ve been working on next steps in the search for a new Executive Director. Paul and I have met with search firms and will bring a report to Council in the coming weeks.

In the interim, I'm grateful to have August, Gail, and Nicole working with us in expanded roles. They've made this transition seem seamless, but I know it represents a significant shift. Thank you as well to all our staff who are navigating new territory with us.

A quick note on process: if you're unsure who to contact, please route questions through Exec so we can triage. Contract questions go to Gail, membership issues to Nicole, and financial and governance matters to August, via Paul. Our strategic team is working with Elana, David, and August, along with our awards team. Filtering messages helps everyone work more efficiently. That said, if something urgent comes up, please contact all three directors and me.

As you know, we'll be holding two by-elections — at the March and April Council meetings. While we regret losing two elected leaders so early in the year, we respect their decisions and wish them well. Any questions about election procedures can be directed to our staff scrutineer, Nicole Fournier.

Brief updates: ACTRA Toronto sponsored and facilitated a panel at the Next Gen Showcase in late January, followed by a career meet-up with Grace Hawkins. These were strong opportunities to engage emerging performers and address questions around credits, membership pathways, and permanent residency.

Ten days ago, Alistair, August, and I met with Ron Zammit, resulting in a new member reporting process for AOS claims — a major step forward that brings AFBS and AOS reporting closer in line with WSIB. This was announced at National Council and reflects years of advocacy from our stunt community.

Many Council members also attended PrimeTime in Ottawa. My key takeaway is that Canadian producers are showing renewed confidence in creative risk, but government investment in funding and skills training must follow. ACTRA Toronto will continue taking a leadership role in these discussions.

Finally, at ACTRA National, we marked the conclusion of Theresa Tova's twelve years as National Treasurer and welcomed Wendi Smallwood into the role (until June). We supported the launch of ACTRA National's first Indigenous Performers Committee, chaired by Marsha Knight, and congratulate Madelaine Rose on her election as 2026 Chair of the National Progress Pride Committee. We also advanced key discussions around PRS appeals, AI governance, and long-term financial sustainability — including proposing a shift toward a revenue-based per-capita model, which will continue at the upcoming special National meeting."

INTERIM DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Ms Hauptert, Ms Fournier and Ms Lew introduced themselves and what their roles will be following Mr. Hepburn's departure.

Gail Hauptert's report – Ms Hauptert reported on FIFA and closures around the city during this event.

- She sits on the City of Toronto Film, TV and Digital Media Advisory board, and has received an update on the impact of FIFA on filming by the ED of the FIFA Secretariat.
- Largest World Cup staged by FIFA; 16 different host cities; 48 nations, 104 matches
 - There are 6 games total to be held in Toronto, 5 in the group stage, and 1 in the round of 32. The event wraps up in the US on July 19th.
- June 12th will be the first match in Toronto. Team is TBD, but depending on who it is, there may be alternate road closures. We will know who this team will be on March 31, as one EU playoff still needs to happen.
- Centennial Park will be the training site for FIFA, and the BMO field will temporarily be renamed to the Toronto Stadium for this event.

- Fan festivals will also be held at Fort York and the Bentway, with community celebrations across the city also being encouraged.
 - Film office will not approve road closures before, during or after a game day
 - Parking will be limited and paid duty officers will be in short supply for shoots.
 - Increase in construction prior to and after the games. Info available on the website if this will impact anything.
- Members are going to be encouraged to look at the link for the City to see if any road closures or transit will be impacted by the games; as filming will remain as usual for the most part, planning ahead where possible will be key.

[Plan Your Shoot – City of Toronto](#)

Nicole Fournier's report – Ms Fournier reported that Equity has launched their membership opportunity. It is a lovely show of solidarity.

Re Council By-elections – nominations for one vacant seat will close on Wednesday, February 18th.

August Lew – introduced herself to Council. She had nothing to report outside of agenda items.

REPORT FROM PRIMETIME

Report from Jameson Kraemer

Attending Prime Time 2026 as a performer in a room full of producers required a significant perspective shift. The mentality and goals of production differ substantially from performer priorities, and adjusting to that dynamic took a bit of getting used to my first time out. The following are my nutshell observations on some of the conference's themes as well as some strategic considerations for ACTRA Toronto moving forward.

- *Canada's Talent Retention Problem.* A common thread throughout the conference was the acknowledgment that Canada excels at producing talent but fails at keeping it. This applies across all sectors, both scripted and unscripted. The unscripted focus was particularly strong this year, with significant implications for hosting opportunities and performer visibility.
- *Building Recognition Beyond the Star System.* This one is a big one for me. There remains considerable talk about creating a “star system”, which to me feels comparable to trying to manufacture a viral video on purpose. However, there is meaningful work the industry and potentially ACTRA Toronto can do to boost performer recognition. Recognition keeps audiences coming back and builds interest in who appears on screen. The rise of contestant-based shows like *Traitors* presents opportunities for actors to become familiar to audiences in non-character contexts. For example, if an audience member recognizes a contestant/performer from *Traitors* and later sees them in a scripted role, that existing recognition creates connection, or vice-versa. Supporting this *culture of recognition* could be very meaningful to some of our members who are building careers on personality rather than roles.
- *CanCon:* The ongoing discussion around CanCon regulations reinforced a pretty straightforward reality: these regulations were built for a broadcast era and do not effectively address the current global platform landscape. This was a recurring theme across multiple sessions. • *Irish Cultural Investment Mode:* The Irish minister (Patrick O'Donovan) delivered a phenomenal speech. The Irish and Korean delegates both presented compelling arguments regarding their cultural investment and production funding models. These frameworks offer useful reference points for our discussions with legislators and funding bodies. See *Basic Income for Artists*. • *The Production/AI Conundrum.* There was an obvious conflict of interest between production values and AI implementation throughout the conference. You had one panel talking about how we have to protect sovereignty and build and create, meanwhile the panel next door was actively teaching attendees how to

replicate voices, music, and cinematography using AI tools. Needless to say this was not a feeling of overwhelming comfort from producers or our own ministers.

- **Moving Forward:** Two immediate priorities emerged from the conference:
 1. First, ensuring ACTRA Toronto has representation at the Banff AI Summit in March. This is extraordinarily important. We need to ensure that protection for performers and individuals remains a key part of these discussions, not an afterthought.
 2. Second, studying the Irish and Korean cultural investment models more closely. Their funding frameworks present arguments that could strengthen our discussions with legislators and funding bodies.
- **Recommendation for Future Attendance:** While the conference is expensive, I believe it could be valuable for ACTRA Toronto to consider sending not only Executive members, who are already in the know and can engage in extremely productive hallway conversations with producers and other colleagues, but perhaps also including a newer Councillor who would benefit from being exposed to how the industry works from the producer's perspective. I found the experience quite valuable in that way. This is just a personal observation but I wanted to plant that seed for consideration.

Report from Amy Matysio

Thank you, to this table for once again approving to send a delegation. This was my third time attending Prime Time representing ACTRA, and was by far, the most productive. It was electric, and I don't just mean the visit of Mark Carney and Hudson Williams...

PrimeTime continues to be one of the most influential industry gatherings of the year, bringing together producers, broadcasters, streamers, distributors, funders, policy makers, and industry organizations for three days of panels, keynotes, and market-facing conversations.

What was striking this year was not just the breadth of voices in the room, but the consistency of messaging: the Canadian screen sector is at a turning point, and the pace of change is no longer theoretical; it is urgent. "Nostalgia is not a strategy."

Key Themes Emerging Across the Conference – A recurring idea across sessions was the need to stop "propping up the past" and instead build leverage for the future. As CMF CEO Valerie Creighton put it:

"I will do everything in my mental power not to hang on to the past. It won't be easy, but it will be fun."

That sentiment echoed across discussions on funding models, commissioning, regulation, AI, and global competitiveness. This is about movement.

Keynotes & Policy Conversations – Ireland's Minister for Culture, Communications and Sport, Patrick O'Donovan, delivered an incredible keynote emphasizing national cultural strategy as an economic and identity priority, a useful comparator as Canada reassesses its own cultural policy frameworks. He also spoke to Universal Income, which he was instrumental in moving forward.

Minister of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation, the Honourable Evan Solomon, outlined the federal government's AI strategy: Build, Empower, Protect, with a strong emphasis on privacy, safety, and sovereignty. He commented that "Canada will not be the farm team anymore". The industry intends to hold the government to this promise, particularly as AI intersects with performance, rights, and labour protections.

Minister Marc Miller, Canada's new Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture, appeared in a candid, wide-ranging conversation moderated by George Stroumboulopoulos, underscoring the political visibility of culture at this moment.

Commissioning, Formats, and Opportunity – Several sessions focused on what is actually being commissioned right now.

A market-focused panel on competition, game shows, and unscripted formats featured commissioners and producers actively working in this space. Formats like *Canada's Drag Race*, *The Traitors*, *Amazing Race*, and game shows more broadly were discussed as adaptable, and increasingly multi-platform. This conversation is directly relevant to ACTRA as these formats continue to evolve, we are now actively having conversations around ensuring our members can work on these shows, now more than ever.

In scripted, the session with *Heated Rivalry* creator/director Jacob Tierney and producer Brendan Brady was beyond inspiring. They explored how they challenged assumptions about scale, representation, and global appeal. The discussion reinforced how a single project, and investing in unknown talent, can meaningfully shift commissioning confidence, and why creative risk remains essential.

Creators, YouTube, and New Storytelling Models – Moderated by YouTube Canada's Stephanie Wilson Chapin, with creators Ryan George, Marianne Plaisance, and Melissa Fernandes, the panel emphasized that today's most successful creators are building communities first, and IP second. Creator-first strategies are reframing the platform not as "alternative" media, but as a global storytelling ecosystem.

For ACTRA, this space remains both an opportunity and a challenge: creators are experimenting rapidly, often outside traditional labour frameworks, while still driving massive audiences and cultural impact. Looking forward to discussing how our creator pilot can speak to creators like these three.

Equity & Representation – Building on the DGC's 2025 Census Report, this workshop confirmed that while there has been incremental progress in representation, significant gaps remain, particularly in income equity, disability inclusion, and racialized access to sustained work. Panelists Anthony Q. Farrell, ACTRA National's Jenn Paul, and the DGC's Marwa Siam-Abdou stressed that improved numbers do not automatically translate into equitable opportunity or career longevity.

From an ACTRA perspective, the session reinforced the need to use data as an accountability tool, ensuring representation leads to real access, fair compensation, and meaningful participation for performers.

Cultural Sovereignty & Public Investment – One of the most important sessions brought together leaders of Canada's national audiovisual institutions; CMF, Telefilm, the Indigenous Screen Office, the NFB, and Heritage, a discussion on narrative sovereignty, Indigenous majority ownership, and funding evolution. Five powerhouse women, really inspiring the room to take action.

Key messages included:

"Release the barriers. Unleash creativity."

"Don't look at the future with barriers, look at it with leverage."

Everyone wants to make changes but then talks about how difficult it is. A shared acknowledgement that production structures have not kept pace with reality, even as everyone agrees change is necessary.

Kids & Youth: A Crisis – The kids and youth panel, yet again, as I attended many in 2025, was hard to listen to. Canada has lost children’s channels, commissions are shrinking, and financing is increasingly difficult. Panelists stressed the need for long-term strategic mapping paired with short-term agility. One data point that stood out: CBC is commissioning 52 hours of television, made by Canadian producers. A key question for ACTRA is how much of that work is union, and where performers are, or are not, being engaged?

Where are we going? – Throughout the conference, executives were notably blunt about the impact of uncertainty at the CRTC, particularly as it relates to implementation timelines, platform obligations, and the future regulatory framework.

“If regulators are unclear, we will go where the work is.”

“There is no time for lethargy.”

“We will go where the tax credits are to keep people employed.”

“We need to move quickly, we can’t keep trying to fix things that haven’t worked for a number of years.”

There was broad consensus that CRTC delays are stalling decision-making across the ecosystem. Producers are unable to greenlight projects, broadcasters and platforms are holding back on commissioning, and distributors are increasingly hesitant to assume risk without regulatory certainty. As one panelist summarized, distribution ultimately comes down to who is willing to put up the risk, and uncertainty pushes that risk elsewhere.

Panelists were clear that in a highly competitive global market, capital, production, and talent are mobile. Jurisdictions that offer clarity, speed, and predictable policy outcomes will attract work; those that do not will lose it. Canada does not have the luxury of prolonged regulatory indecision.

There was also strong agreement that the term “linear television” is no longer useful. Regulation, funding models, and labour frameworks that remain siloed or platform-specific were described as increasingly misaligned with how content is created, distributed, and consumed in 2026.

For ACTRA, this environment heightens the importance of active advocacy and rapid response, particularly as stalled policy decisions directly affect employment, jurisdictional competitiveness, and performers’ ability to participate in new and emerging production models.

Canadian content is no longer framed solely as a cultural good, but as core business infrastructure essential to economic and creative competitiveness.

For ACTRA, this moment calls for assertive, forward-looking engagement across new formats, creator-driven content, Verticals, AI, kids’ programming, and evolving commissioning models. Ensuring performers remain central to Canada’s screen future will require speed, flexibility, and continued leadership, especially as decisions made, or delayed, in the next year will shape where work happens for years to come

Report from Adolyn Dar

Adolyn Dar reported that he attended the conference as the BIPOC delegate and not as an ACTRA Toronto delegate. He said that we need to change the appearance of the union to make it superior and to be more flexible.

Regarding actors being able to work on non-union sets as long as they are appearing as themselves.

Two misconceptions:

- ACTRA members cannot be on other network shows because the Union won't allow it (networks will use ACTRA as an excuse to say their sets are non-union).
- ACTRA members can't work on non-union shows at all because as long as there is one person who is non-union, the entire production is non-union.

The aim:

- ACTRA actors can work on non-union shows as themselves, especially for promotional purposes. Producers want to support the star system.

Erin Haskett from Lark Productions is willing to work with us on whatever it takes to get this moving.

2026/27 BUDGET REVIEW FOR COUNCIL

Treasurer Paul Constable reported that we are budgeting a \$1.644 million deficit. Next year we are looking at a CRTC ruling and at a potential SAG strike.

Ms Ziegler said that ACTRA National has a budget for two referendums. We have a dues survey that we have prepared that we should send out prior to the dues referendum. She said that we could send a copy of the survey to the branches.

Regarding the CRTC ruling mentioned above, Ms Ziegler said that this will be included as an Agenda item for the March Council meeting.

Ms Lew said that in the Budget, the Honoraria line item has been broken down for clarity.

Mr. Constable and Ms Lew walked Council through the budget. Ms Ziegler said that 80% of the deficit is locked and only 20% is pliable – this includes rent.

MOTION #3

Moved by Paul Constable, seconded by John Cleland:

“That ACTRA Toronto Council approve the budget for the 2026/2027 fiscal year.”

Discussion

Mr. Rand asked how ACTRA Toronto can function if we are in a deficit. Ms Lew said that we have investments that we can draw down on. Ms Matysio said that working dues remain with the branch.

Mr. Kraemer asked if we have a timeline when our budget started to look scary. Ms Lew responded that this is a challenging question, as the past five years have been marked by unprecedented circumstances, including COVID-19, followed by significant inflationary pressures and broader impacts from the global economy but the continued deficit, year after year, is not normal.

Mr. Constable said that Alistair Hepburn had said that the industry has changed but ACTRA has not.

Ms Ziegler told Council that in the past ACTRA National returned the surplus but that had stopped in the last few years.

The question was called.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT FROM DISABILITY ALLIANCE CHAIR ON WORK WITH DISABILITY SCREEN OFFICE (DSO)

Toria Summerville reported. She shared the Disability Awareness on Set document in collaboration with the Disability Screen Office. This will be distributed along with the Health and Safety document on set. It is for people who have not been exposed to people on set with disabilities.

Ms Ziegler thanked Ms Summerville for the work that she has done. This document will be shared on our website.

Luisa Alvarez Restrepo said that when they approached the DSO they were excited about it. It is a way for us to be more impactful. In partnering with the DSO it helps to amplify the work that we are doing.

Mr. Kraemer asked if there was room to include seasonal accommodations. Ms Summerville said that the DSO is coming up with a more comprehensive guide.

Bill Cole said that he would like to see it presented to productions, Wranglers and Background Performers. Ms Hauptert said that we can take it to productions.

MOTIONS

- a. Waive Notice of Motion + Motion from the Voice Committee to establish the AI Subcommittee as a Committee (Elana Dunkelman & Amy Matysio)*

MOTION #4

Moved by Elana Dunkelman, seconded by Amy Matysio:

“That Council waive the Notice of Motion requirement on the appointment of John Cleland and Cory Doran as Co-Chairs of the AI Committee.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION #5

Moved by Amy Matysio and Elana Dunkelman:

“Whereas artificial intelligence continues to rapidly impact ACTRA Toronto members’ works, rights, and creative livelihoods across multiple sectors;

Whereas the existing AI Subcommittee has demonstrated sustained member engagement and ongoing need for focused organizing, education, and advocacy;

And whereas the Voice Committee Co-Chairs have confirmed their support of this transition;

Be it resolved that ACTRA Toronto establish the AI Subcommittee as a standing committee.

Be it further resolved that Cory Doran and John Cleland be appointed Co-Chairs of the AI Committee.

Be it further resolved that the AI Committee be allocated an annual operating budget of \$1,500.

Discussion

Ms Matysio mentioned that the current parent committee of the AI Subcommittee is the Voice Committee.

Kara Wooten suggested deleting “Whereas” for the Motion.

MOTION #5 – AMENDED

Moved by Amy Matysio and Elana Dunkelman:

“Artificial intelligence continues to rapidly impact ACTRA Toronto members’ works, rights, and creative livelihoods across multiple sectors;

The existing AI Subcommittee has demonstrated sustained member engagement and ongoing need for focused organizing, education, and advocacy;

And the Voice Committee Co-Chairs have confirmed their support of this transition;

Be it resolved that ACTRA Toronto establish the AI Subcommittee as a standing committee.

Be it further resolved that Cory Doran and John Cleland be appointed Co-Chairs of the AI Committee.

Be it further resolved that the AI Committee be allocated an annual operating budget of \$1,500.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Waive Notice of Motion + Motion from the Voice Committee to establish to establish a Dialect Coach Subcommittee (Elana Dunkelman & Amy Matysio)***

MOTION #6

Moved by Amy Matysio, seconded by Jameson Kraemer:

“That Council waive the Notice of Motion requirement for the establishment of a Dialect Coaches Subcommittee operating under the Voice Committee.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION #7

Moved by Amy Matysio, seconded by Elana Dunkelman:

“Dialect Coaches are an integral working category in ACTRA Toronto’s membership, whose work supports performer success, and authenticity in production;

**Dialect Coaches have begun to organize collectively in order to identify workplace issues, and advocate for best practices;
Providing formal space with ACTRA Toronto committees strengthens member engagement, access, and grassroots organizing;**

And the Voice Committee Co-Chairs have confirmed their support;

Be it resolved that ACTRA Toronto formally recognize Dialect Coaches as a subcommittee operating under the Voice Committee.”

Discussion

Anand Rajaram said that there seems like there will be a connection between the Dialect Coaches Subcommittee and the Accent Committee.

Ms Matysio said that we can go deeper into this until this is approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council was informed that the reason for so many waivers is that in the last year there have been a lot of back and forth on these items. In the future Council will refrain from this.

c. Waive Notice of Motion + Motion from the Video Game Working Group – small financial ask for an online Video Game Voice Workshop (Elana Dunkelman)

MOTION #8

Moved by Mercedes Morris, seconded by John Cleland:

“That ACTRA Toronto Council waive the requirement of Notice of Motion regarding the Video Game Working Group: Voice Acting for Video Games Workshop.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms Dunkelman read out the proposal that was sent out to Council prior to the meeting. She said that this proposal is for a virtual *Voice Acting for Video Games* workshop in mid March, designed to provide ACTRA Toronto members with hands-on practical training in video game performance. This workshop advances ACTRA Toronto’s Operating Plan goals around member education and professional development.

The online workshop will be led by an experienced ACTRA member actively working at the highest level in the sector. Five ACTRA Toronto performers will be selected (using an equity-informed rubric) to participate in live, directed performance, while the broader membership can attend as observers and learn from the process. The session may be recorded and shared privately with members afterward, subject to permissions.

Total estimated cost is approximately \$168.00 covering an honorarium for the workshop facilitator.

Equity, Access & Inclusion: Participant performers will be selected using a staff approved rubric that prioritizes equity and diversity, while also considering experience level and at-home equipment, ensuring a range of voices

and career stages are represented. The workshop will be open to all ACTRA Toronto members as observers, with closed captioning enabled.

MOTION #9

Moved by Elana Dunkelman, seconded by Izaiah Dockery:

“The Video Game Working Group is seeking to host an online voice workshop for members in early March to support professional development in video game performance;

Be it resolved that ACTRA Toronto approve a budget of \$168 for facilitator honoraria to support this workshop, and authorize the Video Game Working Group to engage a qualified facilitator.

Discussion

It was mentioned that this could live in Member Education in future.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- d. *Waive Notice of Motion + Motion from the Creators Corner – small financial ask to have a panel/mixer at the office (Elana Dunkelman)***

MOTION #10

Moved by Jameson Kraemer, seconded by Gord Rand:

“That ACTRA Toronto Council waive the requirement of Notice of Motion from Creators Corner for a small financial ask to have a panel/mixer at the office.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ms Dunkelman said that re recording the event, they will have to talk to staff and the people involved. They would like it to be open to members.

The proposal is for a pilot *Creators Corner Panel & Mixer* to be held in mid March at the ACTRA Toronto office (with virtual access during the panel). The event combines a moderated panel of ACTRA Toronto member creators with a networking mixer, designed to help members connect across disciplines and support collaboration on original projects under ACTRA contracts. It directly supports ACTRA Toronto’s operating goals around member engagement, and professional development. If successful, it could also evolve into a quarterly gathering for member creators.

Budget: Total estimated cost is \$150.00, covering light snacks/non-alcoholic beverages for the event. The event uses in-house space in the ACTRA Toronto boardroom to keep costs low.

Equity, Access & Inclusion: the panelists and moderator will be invited in a way that reflects the diversity of ACTRA Toronto’s creative community, with an emphasis on inclusion, accessibility, and a range of professional experiences. The event will be open to *all* ACTRA Toronto members. Virtual attendance with

closed captioning will be prioritized to include members outside Toronto with mobility/access barriers. Digital materials via QR codes will be used where possible to reduce environmental impact.

MOTION #11

Moved by Gord Rand, seconded by Jameson Kraemer:

“Creators Corner is proposing a pilot in-person panel and mixer at the ACTRA Toronto office to support member creators in building connections and collaborations;

Be it resolved that ACTRA Toronto approve the financial support of \$150.00 to cover food and non-alcoholic beverage costs for this event.”

Discussion

Ms. Morris suggested the initiative could potentially partner with an existing committee to increase reach and explore use of an existing committee budget as a fiscally responsible approach.

Mr. Rand replied that this is something that they can discuss in the future.

Ms Ziegler said that perhaps two committees can get together to sponsor this.

Ms Matysio suggested taking this outside this office. Mr. Rand responded that they would like members to get together in the office to start feeling like it is somewhere members can meet.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

e. Motion to approve outACTRAto Co-Chairs (Elana Dunkelman & Paul Constable)

MOTION #12

Moved by Elana Dunkelman and Paul Constable:

“That ACTRA Toronto Council reappoint Matt Lemche and Madelaine Rose as the Co-Chairs of outACTRAto.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Cleland thanked Mr. Lemche and Ms Rose for taking on these roles.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Election Report
This is in the works.
- Creators Corner – Update Request + Survey (Gord Rand)

Gord Rand said that the understanding was to have the National website updated so that we can piggyback on that. It would be a resource for everybody to share their skills. It is time to have a monthly meeting to work on the website. Ms Ziegler said that when the time comes, they can meet with Ms Hauptert and Ms Fournier and come up with further action/steps to be taken.

Ms Ziegler asked if we can get two surveys out sooner rather than later and if they are anonymous, can Council help to coordinate the responses.

- Membership Meeting: Townhall with Casting (Gord Rand)

Mr. Rand suggested a townhall with Casting Directors. Ms. Morris expressed support for holding more townhalls with members and noted the importance of applying lessons learned from the previous townhall regarding the dues increase to ensure transparency and constructive engagement with the membership. Ms Ziegler said that Sarah Gadon has shown interest in supporting this. She suggested putting a proposal together for the next Council meeting.

- AI Rider – John Cleland

Mr. Cleland and Cory Doran have been attending various meetings/conferences. We need to get all members to have an AI Rider attached to their contracts. Member education is required.

- Game Shows and Contestants – Jameson Kraemer

There was a fulsome discussion as to whether members are allowed to be Contestants on Game Shows. Ms Hauptert informed Council that there are not special requirements of ACTRA members to be Contestants, however, the production must be a signatory and the Host must be on an ACTRA contract. We can do some member education or social eblast on this.

In response to Mr. Kraemer's query whether ACTRA Members get a different set of rules. Ms Hauptert's response was no separate rules.

A Councillor said that networks will not put their stars on one another's shows and that they are using the union as a scapegoat. Ms Ziegler said that this can be included in the Gameshow info for Members. The Councillor will forward information to be included to Ms Hauptert and Ms Fournier.

- Mr. Rand asked about the posting of the Council Minutes to our website. It was mentioned that staff will ensure that this is up to date.
- Ms Morris noted that she is taking a Synergy governance training course for BIPOC women in leadership and whether ACTRA Toronto has budget allocations for governance or leadership training for Council members. She recommended this company. Ms Ziegler suggested that she report to the Executive and let them know what she has learned and if she could recommend certain elements to Council. Sally Nakazi suggested talking to Hart House about their training program.
- Conflict of Interest. Out of her training, Ms Morris also raised a Point of Information asking whether ACTRA has a clear conflict-of-interest policy regarding disclosure of personal or professional relationships, and whether there is a process for raising potential concerns or whistleblower situations without fear of reprisal. She noted that this could apply, for example, when recommending sponsors or vendors where a personal relationship exists. Ms Fournier explained Conflict of Interest and said that we do not have clear definitions. In the absence of anything formal Ms Fournier can be that default person. She will take that on and figure out the direction we should go.
- Vetting process for sponsors. Everything should be aboveboard.

LARGE FRAME CONVERSATION

Council met in-camera during this conversation.

Following the above agenda item there was another in-camera session.

The Recording Secretary left the meeting at 2:07p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

COMMITTEE & CAUCUS HIGHLIGHTS

The following reports were emailed to Council prior to the Council meeting:

Executive Liaison (Child Advocate): Elana Dunkelman, Mercedes Morris & Jinny Wong
Executive Liaisons (Minors Committee): Elana Dunkelman, Mercedes Morris & Jinny Wong
Staff Liaison: Clare Johnston

Child Advocate/Minors Committee – Angelica Alejandro, Child Advocate & Chair, Minors Committee

- Explaining the PCPA and Minor Engagement to Student and LBG Productions.
- Fielding questions On-Set Tutors/Studio Tutors.
- Outreach from Child Performer Director at the Stratford Festival.
- Supporting Minors on OSLO assignments.
- Responding to Parent/Guardian questions for new performers to the industry.
- Minors Committee: Survey sent to parents to assess what will be most effective in terms of communication, meeting frequency as well as establishing a list of initiatives for the Committee in 2026.

Executive Liaisons: Paul Constable & Kate Ziegler – Staff Liaison: Jennifer McGibbon

Editorial Committee – Joy Tanner, Chair

Top stories in 2025:

- [The Red Carpet at the 23rd ACTRA Awards in Toronto](#) (May 14, 2025)
- [Celebrating the 2025 Outstanding Performance On-camera Nominees](#) (April 11, 2025)
- [The 23rd ACTRA Awards in Toronto](#) (May 23, 2025)
- [Celebrating the 2025 Outstanding Performance Voice Nominees](#) (April 9, 2025)
- [ACTRA Toronto Performers are in the spotlight at #TIFF50](#) (September 3, 2025)

Upcoming

- Winter 2026 Applause
- Puppeteers (TBC)
- 2026 Award of Excellence profile
- 2026 Outstanding Performance Nominee profiles
- 2026 Stunt Award profile.

Executive Liaisons: Elana Dunkelman, Paul Constable and Emily Hurson

Staff Liaison: Luisa Alvarez Restrepo

outACTRAto – Co-Chairs, Matt Lemche and Madelaine Rose

Meetings/General

- Meeting held on January 20, 2026, next meeting is TBD

Gender-Diversity Subcommittee

- Met on February 1, 2026
- Submitted a proposal to executive council to provide honoraria to consultants on Best Practices Guide for Working with Trans Actors
 - Executive council approved the proposal
 - Subcommittee moving ahead with engaging consulting individuals

Working Groups

- QYS
 - Winning team is moving forward with pre-production and has connected with ACTRA Toronto and all sponsors regarding their upcoming filming dates
 - Grandé Camera Sponsorship Loss
 - Unfortunately, one of the founding sponsors of QYS, Grandé Camera, has had to close their Toronto office and have withdrawn this year's \$2,500 in-kind camera sponsorship.
 - The team has pivoted quickly and are in talks with Ontario Camera to fill the gap.
- WTSR
 - We've started the preliminary phases of re-starting this working group for the year which involves putting a call out for volunteers, checking on and updating our timeline for the year and beginning the proposal to be submitted to Exec.

Executive Liaisons: Jinny Wong and Mercedes Morris

Staff Liaison: Luisa Alvarez Restrepo & Tina Wang

TAWC – Co-Chairs, Heather Allin and Tonjha Richardson

TAW*C's event on Friday, December 5th was: **Coping, Confidence & Wellbeing**. Lead by: Tish Binzanga, Therapists and Registered Social Worker in Ontario.

Tish Binzangi is a registered therapist (with the Ontario College of Social Workers & Social Service Workers(OCWSSW)). With over 10 years of diverse experience across social services and mental health, Tish specializes in maternal health, passionately supporting women and non binary individuals through emotional and psychological challenges. Tish reminded us of the unique nature of our lives as artists and the joys and pressures associated with creativity. Combined with a love for the arts, as she is also a singer and actor, Tish shared tools and support for our members, much needed during these unprecedented times. 10 members joined the session in person and via Zoom. TAW*C is planning to produce a 5 episodic program of training, along the lines of The TAWC ToolKit program so successful pre-Covid. These episodes are:

1. Producing;
2. Marketing;
3. Writing;
4. Directing and
5. Post Production

