



all-spend incentives. As proven in the past, this new spend incentive will stimulate further growth in Manitoba's film industry and infrastructure. With this increase, the provincial government has demonstrated that the film and television sectors are worth continued investment. We are very excited of what's to come as a result and very thankful for the continued support from the province."

According to **Tara Walker**, the executive director of On Screen Manitoba, the industry contributed \$365 million to the province's economy from 2003/04 to 2007/08.

Yorkton Announces Jury

The Yorkton Film Festival recently announced the makeup of its 2010 Golden Sheaf Awards adjudication jury. The 13 jurors will preside over the awards selection for films in official competition, deciding the nominees and winners in 21 genre and three craft categories and the recipients of four special awards.

Western Canadians include Winnipeg's **Jeff Newman**, Regina's **Mark Bardley**, Edmonton's **Eva Colmers**, Saskatoon's **Mike Gossedin**, Vancouver's **Anita Adams**, Ileana Pietrobruno and **Charles Wilkinson** and Calgary's **Brent Kawchuk**.

The remaining members are Halifax's **Kent Nasson**, Montreal's **Germaine Ying Gee Wong** and Toronto's **Donna Dudinsky**, **Hillary Armstrong** and **Alberta Nokes**.

The Festival, which celebrates its 63rd year, is the longest running film festival in North America. It runs from May 27-30. ■

Year of the Blockbuster

Final numbers from the BC government show that the film and television industry worked on less productions but increased revenues by more than \$100 million. The final total of \$1.3 billion that the provincial government announced in March included 239 productions. The breakdown was 84 foreign productions with 37 feature films, 14 television series, 24 television projects and nine animated series or projects. There were 155 domestic productions including 19 feature films, 34 television series, 90 television projects and 12 animated series or projects.

A spokesperson said that the increase came from foreign feature film production. He said that while there were 260 productions in 2008, the total of 2009 expenditures was \$640

million, an increase of \$200 million over 2008. Features shot in 2009 included the big budget movies *The A-Team*, *Tron 2*, *Twilight Saga: New Moon* and *Eclipse*, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* and *Sucker Punch*.

The government announced that 2009 also saw the Services Tax Credit on labour costs for foreign productions increase to 33 per cent from 25 per cent, the Digital Animation or Visual Effects tax credit bonus increased to 17.5 per cent from 15 per cent and the cap on qualified B.C. labour expenditures increase to 60 per cent from 48 per cent of production costs.

Manitoba Hits Heights

Manitoba recently announced it has introduced a new tax credit that will give producers the option to take ei-

ther a 30% tax credit on all eligible local expenditures, including labour; or use the existing 65% labour tax credit.

According to **Carole Vivier**, the CEO of Manitoba Film and Sound, the option will be available for productions that start principal photography after March 2010. In addition to the introduction of Manitoba's new tax credit which she says, is the highest "all-spend" credit in Canada, the province also renewed the existing labour credit which was set to expire March 1, 2011 for another three years.

"Manitoba was the first in Canada to introduce a Frequent Filming Bonus, along with a labour tax credit that is the best in Canada," said Vivier. "As the world's economic situation continues to shift, we have to be readily competitive with other jurisdictions that have amended or added

Announcements and Appointments

Vancouver filmmaker **Vic Sarin** was recently honoured with the Kodak New Century Award. He was chosen by his peers at the Canadian Society of Cinematographers to receive the award at the 2009 CSC Awards Celebration in Toronto on March 27. Sarin's latest film, *A Shine of Rainbows* premiered April 9... SCN, the Saskatchewan Communications Network, has been shut down after 20 years. SCN's assets will be transferred to SaskTel this spring, with the SCN Corporation expected, at press time, to cease broadcast operations by May... **Susan Millican**, the CEO of the National Screen Institute - Canada (NSI) since 2002, recently advised the organization's board of directors of her intention to step down from the position. The NSI said Millican will remain CEO until a committee completes a national search for her successor... The 2010 edition of the Vancouver Short Film Festival will run from October 28-29, 2010 at the VIFC Vancity Theatre. It will feature shorts by students, professional filmmakers, award-winning international films, an industry panel, and a showcase of the best five years of the festival. Accepted are films by post-secondary students and professional filmmakers from across BC. Films must be under 15 minutes, including credits. The deadline is Sunday, August 1, 6:00pm. For further information contact www.vsfll.com/Docs/vsfll2010faqs.pdf