

The Ontario Budget, 2009 26 March 2009

Ontario Finance Minister **Dwight Duncan** presented the 2009 Ontario budget today which projects a deficit of \$14.1 billion in 2009-2010. The budget also includes comprehensive reforms to Ontario's tax system including the implementation of a single sales tax of 13% on July 1, 2010. Municipalities, hospitals, universities, colleges, school boards, charities, and qualifying non-profit organizations will receive rebates to ensure the net effect of the provincial portion of the single sales tax would be fiscally neutral.

In the Minister's speech, it is mentioned that the government will "invest in our successful creative and entertainment sector, helping with tax credits and support for digital media." On the tax credit front, the budget proposes about \$100 million annually for three years in additional tax relief and investments including about \$30 million in 2009-2010 to support the entertainment and creative cluster.

Proposals include:

- ✓ Enhancing tax support for the creation of interactive digital media products in Ontario;
- ✓ Enhancing the refundable book publishing tax credit;
- ✓ Making the tax credit rates under the refundable film and television tax credits permanent;
- ✓ Providing \$20 million to the Ontario Media Development Corporation (OMDC), an agency of the Ministry of Culture;
- ✓ Investing \$10 million for a pilot program, administered through the OMDC, which would refund a portion of the costs associated with intellectual property development to Ontario-based companies in the screen-based industries.

In addition, there is a \$10 million increase to the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

It would appear there are increases to the budget of the Ministry of Culture, not quite returning it to the levels of 2005-2006.

For full details on the 2009 Ontario budget, please see [here](#).

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