

jurisdictional changes in fisheries-management in such waters and traditional Soviet fishing.

The meeting reviewed the Canadian proposals for the conservation and management of fish stocks off Canada's Atlantic Coast first advanced at the June 1975 meeting of ICNAF and scheduled for further discussion at the special ICNAF meeting to be held in Montreal this month. The Canadians stressed the importance Canada attached to these proposals and their possible implications for the future of ICNAF.

Aleksey A. Volkov, Deputy Chief of External Relations Department, Ministry of Fisheries, headed the Soviet delegation, and L.H. Legault, Director General, International Fisheries and Marine Directorate, Department of the Environment, led the Canadian delegation.

Tax cuts to boost Canadian films

Secretary of State J. Hugh Faulkner announced recently two initiatives by the Federal Government designed to increase support by the private sector of the Canadian feature film industry. A new income tax regulation will allow investors in an eligible film to deduct 100 per cent of their investment in one year; and the two largest theatre chains in Canada – Famous Players Ltd and Odeon Theatres (Canada) Ltd – have agreed to a screen time quota of four weeks a theatre a year and an investment program of at least \$1.7 million to aid the production of Canadian feature films.

"I am certain that these measures will be of significant benefit to the film industry in Canada," said Mr. Faulkner, "and will see the private sector making additional investments in Canadian films to supplement the \$3 million or thereabouts now invested annually by the Canadian Film Development Corporation (CFDC)."

Eligibility rules

To be eligible for the increased capital-cost allowance, an applicant must invest in a Canadian feature film that is: at least 75 minutes long; produced under a formal Canadian co-production agreement with another

country; or a film in which:

- the producer is Canadian;
- two-thirds or more of the personnel performing key creative functions are Canadian;
- a minimum of 75 per cent of the remuneration paid to personnel other than those included above is paid to Canadians;
- at least 75 per cent of the technical services are performed in Canada;
- the Canadian copyright is beneficially owned by Canadians for not less than four years following completion of the film.

To determine what degree of Canadian participation in a feature film would be required under the new regulations, Mr. Faulkner said that his department had consulted with representatives of the film industry. For film investors to be eligible for the tax write-off, producers will be required to apply for certification of the film to a district taxation office of Revenue Canada.

"If they meet these criteria, all films, no matter what their intended means of distribution, will be eligible for the tax deduction," Mr. Faulkner added.

Regarding films shorter than 75 minutes, Mr. Faulkner said that he had received representations from filmmakers suggesting that those films should also be eligible for the increased capital-cost allowance. "I recognize the importance of short films to the healthy development of the industry and am prepared to consider the possibility of including them at a later date should that be desirable," he said.

Films not eligible for the new allowance will still benefit from the capital-cost allowance of 60 per cent already in the law.

Guaranteed screen time

Mr. Faulkner also announced that he had reached an agreement with Famous Players Ltd and Odeon Theatres (Canada) Ltd, which between them control about 500 theatres in Canada, to guarantee screen time for Canadian feature films and capital investment for production of Canadian films.

The two organizations have agreed to a quota system by which Canadian feature films will be guaranteed not less than four weeks of screen time a theatre a year.

"I also approached the chains to increase their investment in Canadian films. They have consented to invest at least \$1.7 million in Canadian films over a one-year period. Famous Players will provide \$1.2 million and Odeon \$500,000."

"I will be keeping a close watch on the progress of this quota and investment agreement," Mr. Faulkner concluded. "I am confident that, together with the new capital-cost allowance criteria, these measures will provide a healthy stimulus to the film industry in Canada so that it may compete more effectively with its foreign counterparts."

Pension Act provides equality

Under amendments to the Pension Act, effective August 1, male and female pensioners now enjoy equal status.

A female disability pensioner is eligible to receive additional pension for her husband and children. The Act also now provides a formula to be used when both spouses are pensioners, or when one such spouse has died but there is a surviving pensioned spouse and children.

Rules respecting common-law relationships have been amended to provide that three years of living together and public representation as a spouse, and the existence of a bar to the marriage will permit the Canada Pension Commission to deem a marriage to exist. Where no bar to marriage exists, only one year of living together and public representation as a spouse will be required before a marriage will be deemed to exist.

The beneficial changes also include the raising of the expiry age for pensions paid to male children from age 16 to age 17, to equate to the current expiry age for female children. Also, the age limit for dependent children continuing their education is raised from 21 to 25 years.

The changes, however, are not automatic; applicants must apply in writing before such changes will take place. Canadian residents may apply through the office of the Canadian Pension Commission serving their district; applicants outside Canada must apply to the Canadian Pension Commission, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0P4.