



makes you think

Naming of new digital facility  
The William G. Davis Studio

Wednesday November 12, 2008

(Check against delivery)

**Lisa de Wilde**

Thank you Steve, and thank you all for coming today.

I hope we've given you a sense of the new and innovative ways TVO is using digital technology to connect people and ideas across the province. Thanks to podcasts, blogs, streaming video and interactive social media, an ever-growing number of people are discovering TVO's distinctive brand of made-in-Ontario educational media.

And that brand has a clear focus, and a proud message: TVO MAKES You think. For kids, we have commercial-free programs and web activities that are based on educational objectives of the Ontario school curriculum.

We're also building an online community of experts and parents -- TVOParents.com-- to support parents as partners in their children's education.

In fact, for Ontarians of all ages we're offering a powerful, thought-provoking alternative to commercial media. TVO is all about helping to create better informed, more engaged citizens. And doing all this with an Ontario perspective.

Everything starts with our educational mandate. It is what sets TVO apart from the crowd.

TVO's vision of citizen engagement is made possible in large part by our digital transformation.

This includes of course important and necessary equipment upgrades, like the brand new studio we're gathered in today.

But the digital transformation also enables innovation, risk-taking, and a capacity for trying creative new things. And for developing the skills and talents of our dedicated team.

We are now living in a world that allows people to find TVO through some of the most popular online content providers around. Over the last year we've built exciting new partnerships with leading web services like Yahoo! Canada, Joost.com and Adobe Media Player. And just this month we've signed an agreement with our newest partner, YouTube.

All part of TVO making you think, no matter where or how you find us.

There are two thoughts I'd like you to take away. One is that we wouldn't be gathered here in our new, state of the art digital content production facility if it weren't for the ongoing support of the Government of Ontario. It's not just their financial support that has made our digital transition a reality, but their belief in the capacity of public educational media to create a better informed, more active and engaged citizenry.

On behalf of everyone at TVO, my sincere thanks to the Premier and Minister Wynne for helping us play this role in strengthening Ontario. Your commitment to education as the foundation of citizenship is inspiring.

Another thought I would like to leave you with has to do with continuity. While much of what TVO is about these days is new and innovative, it's all based on principles that were introduced almost 40 years ago by Mr. Davis. Technologies change, principles don't. His forward-thinking attitude and belief in the power of educational media to make our communities and our province stronger can only be described as prescient.

It's our honour to be the current custodians of his legacy and these principles. Thank you Mr. Davis.

**Peter O'Brian**

Hello everyone, I'm Peter O'Brian. As the Chair of TVO's Board of Directors, I'm delighted to take part in this very special tribute.

From the day in 1965 when he announced plans for the creation of an educational network for the province, Mr. Davis never looked back. In fact, he only looked forward. Into a future world of portable recordable media. Of computers and satellites.

And of a television channel - CICA-TV, channel 19 - that would use electronic and associated media to provide educational opportunities for all people in Ontario.

Today we are honouring a man whose vision, as realized in the original OECA act that created TVO, is as valued today as it was 38 years ago.

So it's my honour on behalf of my fellow Board members, and all of us at TVO, to officially designate this brand new digital facility The William G. Davis Studio.

These plaques, commemorating Mr. Davis as the founder of TVO, will be proudly displayed for all to see in the green room you passed through on your way into the studio today.

Mr. Davis, we're honoured to have you with us today. Ladies and Gentlemen, the Honourable William G. Davis.