

Interactive Digital Media (IDM) industry – Provincial advocacy priorities and timeline (version June 15 2020)

EMERGENCY actions (immediate and temporary) to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis (short cash runway)	
OIDMTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Expedite OIDMTC processing time. ● Provide flexibility on program requirements for the period of the COVID-19 Crisis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suspension of the 80/25 labour test for the period of the crisis. [specified and non-specified] ○ Suspension of the \$500K labour threshold for companies that filed under 93.2 in their prior year. [93.2] ○ Extension of the 37-month claim period prior to the completion of a product to include the duration of the crisis. [specified and non-specified] ○ Extension of the 18-month submission deadline from after the end of a company’s taxation year (in which development of the eligible product was completed), to the end of the crisis. [specified and non-specified]
IDMF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● \$5M increase in funding to the IDMF in order to support a greater number of projects in development and production for both the April 2020 and the upcoming August 2020 application rounds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relax the eligibility criteria to include Live Ops development. ○ Consider a temporary change of the contribution cap from 50/50 to 60/40 (max cap of \$250K remains). ○ Consider a top-up for projects with increased scope and long-term or high-impact commercialization prospects.

RECOVERY AND STIMULUS actions (Fall budget)	
OIDMTC	<p>Modernize the OIDMTC to ensure Ontario’s competitiveness with other jurisdictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement a service standard, with public-facing KPIs for the issuance of the Certificate of Eligibility and tax refund. ● Lower threshold for annual filing for video game companies who attain a \$50K labour threshold. [93.2] ● Enable compatibility with the federal SR&ED on OIDMTC-eligible labour activities similar to what the Manitoba jurisdiction offers to its IDM companies. ● Include the eligible labour activities of new Ontario residents who establish their residency and file personal income taxes in Ontario in the year they are hired.
General business relief	<p>Offer a subsidy or tax credit to help offset the extra costs due to the crisis for the purchase of equipment, software, and services to support work-from-home, as well as, health and safety measures at the workplace.</p> <p>***We will not be the driven advocacy voice on this but rather join other economic sectors advocating for it.</p>

RECOVERY AND STIMULUS – phase 2 (2021 timeline since these changes are complex)	
OIDMTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow for collaboration between Ontario companies, which is currently limited by the 80/25 rule and provide clear terms relating to claims being filed only upon product completion. [specified and non-specified] • Eliminate the red tape and complexity involved in the review and processing of transmedia products. [specified and non-specified]

RECOVERY AND STIMULUS – potential actions leveraging governmental programs (timeline TBD)	
Access to capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable IDM companies to leverage and access capital through the range of government programs across Ministries and agencies (Provincial and Federal). For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OIDMTC and IDMF as collateral to access Federal programs such as the BCAP loan assistance program. ○ OIDMTC and IDMF as the company's contribution towards the min. \$500K threshold for the BDC VC program. ○ Fast-track successful IDMF companies and use IDMF funds as their contribution for the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) funding programs (MR125, MR250, 5G, ENCQOR 5G, VIP, Market Readiness, and others).
Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a single point-of-contact to the IDM industry to support the immigration processes for senior talent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Relay and simplify access to timely information on Provincial and Federal immigration programs for businesses. ○ Gather feedback from businesses and promote stronger dialogue between Federal and Provincial processes to reduce wait-times, especially on provincial-based work permit or PR applications. • Streamline Ontario Immigrant Nominee program (OINP): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quicker turn-around for nomination notifications, and streamlined PR process. ○ Connect business to Dedicated Service Channel referral partners to allow business to access the Global Skills Strategy's dedicated service.
Labour and Skills Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Advisory Panel (industry leaders, educational institutions, provincial representatives from MHSTCI, the Ministry of Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Create a solution that ensures the upskilling of existing labour to senior world-class levels. ○ Seek out opportunities for reskilling labour from declining sectors into IDM. ○ Provide funding mechanisms to assist companies in upskilling and reskilling labour.
Youth jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish one provincial point of contact for Ontario IDM companies to apply through the Federal Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) program modified under COVID-19