

January 3, 2018

---

**Statement on Media Reports Regarding Souleppper Theatre**

---

Canadian Actors' Equity Association (Equity) has become aware of serious legal allegations made against theatre producer Albert Schultz and Souleppper Theatre. The Association is not involved in the civil lawsuit and offers no comment on either the named Equity member or the Theatre.

Equity has a zero tolerance policy regarding harassment in live performance workspaces. Over the last few weeks a variety of public statements have been released reinforcing the organization's viewpoint as well as that of the creative industries in Canada.

**Public Statements**

- Executive Director Arden R. Ryshpan released a statement regarding respectful workspaces, and Equity's Not in OUR Space! campaign. [Read the full statement: <http://conta.cc/2h9QUU3>]
- Canadian creative industry gathered to collaborate on an industry-wide response to sexual harassment, discrimination, bullying, and violence. [Read the full statement: <http://bit.ly/2A4mKsy>]
- Equity's national Council is actively listening to members' concerns about bullying, discrimination, and personal and sexual harassment. [Read the full statement: <http://conta.cc/2zQkoOY>]

The Association has been meeting with members to hear their concerns. A gathering of the live performance sector (theatre, dance, opera, music) is taking place in mid-January to discuss an industry wide response.

Equity also launched a project titled [Not in OUR Space!](#) This anti-harassment campaign is a proactive initiative designed to change industry culture by emphasizing collective oversight. Work over the past 18 months has included a complete review and overhaul of all internal policies, bylaws and Equity's disciplinary processes resulting in the new [Respectful Workspace Policy](#). Most importantly, select senior staff have been trained as **Respectful Workspace Advisors (RWAs)**, available to assist members experiencing unwelcome behaviour with support and advice about solutions.

Equity is the voice of professional artists engaging in live performance in English Canada representing almost 6,000 artists working in theatre, opera and dance from coast-to-coast-to-coast. Equity's membership includes performers, directors, choreographers, fight directors and stage managers.



Arden R. Ryshpan  
Executive Director



Scott Bellis  
President