

Women calling few shots

Study calls for initiatives to boost gender equity

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Few women find work as feature-film directors or writers even though B.C.'s domestic film and TV industry has grown significantly, a new study says.

Women continue to be under-represented in key filmmaking positions despite a handful of successful filmmakers such as Deepa Mehta, Julia Kwan and Sarah Polley, according to the study released yesterday by the B.C. Institute of Film Professionals.

Among 27 independent features produced in B.C. from 2002 to 2006, women accounted for 11 per cent of directors, 11 per cent of editors and seven per cent of writers.

No women were employed as directors of photography.

Women reached equity only in the role of producer, for which they accounted for 49 per cent of positions.

A significant number of women working in the independent film industry earn less than the average income of women in other industries, the report said.

"These findings came as a bit of [a] surprise," institute president Eileen Hoeter said.

"It is clear that there is still a lot of work to do."

The study calls for gender equity initiatives to boost women's participation in the sector.

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CREDIT: The Canadian Press
Cinematographer Doug Koch (left) takes direction from Deepa Mehta on set of a feature film.