



**Bell
FUND**

ANNUAL REPORT

²⁰
23

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FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Bell Fund would like to thank the following financial contributors for their continued support.

Bell **BellMTS**

 **Northwestel**

CABLEVISION 

 **STINGRAY**

CHAIR'S

MESSAGE



NAVEEN PRASAD
Chair

The ability to help is quite different than knowing how to help.

It's a key distinction that we as an organization continually keep in mind.

The Bell Fund has diligently worked to best discern what 'help' means in every unique context. We have sought to understand the challenges that independent creators face, from the practical to the existential, and have tailored our programmes and services to address these multifaceted needs that cater to various stages of content creation.

Our Slate Programme continues to prove the thesis that the right type of support at the early development stage leads to success not just to a particular project's greenlight, but to help the viability and growth of independent production companies and creators in Canada.

We have deepened our engagement with the content production community, learning from their experiences, and aligning our support mechanisms to foster a culture of innovation and inclusivity. We have actively sought to dismantle barriers and have championed the representation of diverse voices. This also includes focusing on and growing regional support, ensuring that creators from all parts of Canada beyond the main production centres are supported.

Nonetheless, we also must acknowledge that the development and production of certified Canadian Content has not necessarily gotten easier. Securing commissions and greenlights as well as overall production financing are an ever more difficult task as traditional broadcaster's ability to invest in the sector continues to diminish. Similar impacts and realities are felt by all Certified Independent Production Funds including The Bell Fund.

CHAIR'S

MESSAGE

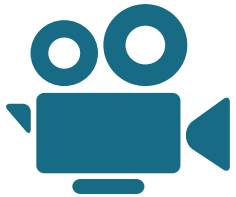
2023 BY NUMBERS



192 Eligible Applicants



68 First-time Applicants



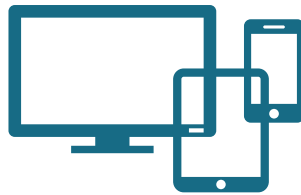
53 Funded Series &
36 Development Slates
145 Individual Projects



81 Funded Companies



12,5M+ in Development
Production and
Discoverability Funding



52 Unique Distribution
Platforms/Channels attached
to Funded Projects and Slates

However, we are very encouraged by the passing of Bill C-11 into the Online Streaming Act and the CRTC's related consultations and focussed efforts that suggest increased support and opportunity for Canada's content creators are just around the corner. And while the potential of increased funding and platforms participating in the system will be of great help, understanding how it all can be best structured and deployed will ultimately enable and create lasting success.

As The Bell Fund closes out 2023, we also mark an end to a great chapter of our fund with the retirement of Nancy Chapelle, our Executive Director for nearly a decade. She was the key architect of all our current programmes and processes, all the while ensuring The Bell Fund continued to be strategic and purposeful in its mission. Her role in transforming and leading our organization over the period will remain immeasurable.

We are equally fortunate to now call on Marcia Douglas who recently joined as our new Executive Director bringing over her 20+ years of experience in production financing, policy, advocacy, regulatory and corporate social responsibility in the screen-based media industry. A tireless advocate for our production community, Marcia, along with the rest of the incredible team at The Bell Fund remain dedicated in our mandate to the benefit of Canadian audiences, artists and content creators and will carry that forward in this evolving age of Canada's overall creative economy.

My best to you all,

Naveen Prasad

Chair, The Bell Fund

GETTING TO KNOW

VERSION 10

Version 10 specializes in the conceptualization and production of innovative multiplatform content for television, film, and entertainment. Version 10 has an impressive track record of boldly integrating digital content and technologies. We have been fortunate to enjoy the support of the Bell Fund on several occasions over the past 15 years. In particular, the Bell Fund helped finance the digital aspects of *Les pêcheurs*, *Les Pays d'en haut*, and our first web series *L'Étrange province* (TVA-Club Illico). This first foray into the production of a drama series has proved to be a success.

In 2019, Version 10 began a shift towards producing its own series and programs. The subsidiary V10 Média was launched for this purpose. Recent projects include the miniseries *Détective Surprenant: La fille aux yeux de pierre* (Club Illico, 6 x 60 min), directed by Yannick Savard, and the web series *Géolocaliser l'amour* (ICI TOU.TV – Bell Fund), written by Simon Boulerice.

When we set out to create original content, we were able to count on the Bell Fund's support through its Slate Development Program. This program made possible the release of Simon Boulerice's original series *Géolocaliser l'amour*, based on his novel of the same name.



CAROLINE GAUDETTE

GETTING TO KNOW

In a competitive and constantly evolving market, the Bell Fund's support has enabled us not only to devote more time to project conceptualization, but also to develop more projects, all while reducing our financial risk. The resulting pitches presented broadcasters with well-crafted, polished concepts. That made all the difference later on. **Géolocaliser l'amour** received support from the Bell Fund and ICI TOU.TV for production in 2021.

It was an opportunity for Simon Boulerice to adapt his first novel for television, and for director Nicolas Legendre-Duplessis to bring his first web series to life with a sensitive *mise-en-scène*. The series highlights sexual and gender diverse communities while offering a poignant perspective on dating in the age of smartphones. We're proud to have helped create a work that reflects the plurality and diversity of our society, while tackling important issues such as loneliness. The budget allocated to discoverability enabled us to build a comprehensive audience-development strategy that brought **Géolocaliser l'amour** to life on the Internet via targeted digital assets: website, IMDb, Wikipedia, Instagram, and Facebook. In addition, the series has enjoyed international exposure through numerous festivals and galas. **Géolocaliser l'amour** received 28 nominations at prestigious galas and won 7 awards, including Meilleur format court (Best Short Form Fiction) at the Festival de la fiction in La Rochelle, France; Best LGBTQ+ Web Series at the T.O. Webfest; the Prix Francophone in the International Short Form Fiction Series category at the 2023 Rockie Awards.

Without a doubt, the Bell Fund has been at the heart of Version 10's growth and success. The confidence and financial support of the Bell Fund's Slate Development Program have enabled us to increase our investments in the creative phase, which has had a significant impact on all our activities, notably the development of new business opportunities with broadcasters, collaboration with emerging talent, the promotion of our productions and talent abroad, and Version 10's standing in the Quebec audiovisual industry.

Caroline Gaudette
President and Producer

VERSION 10



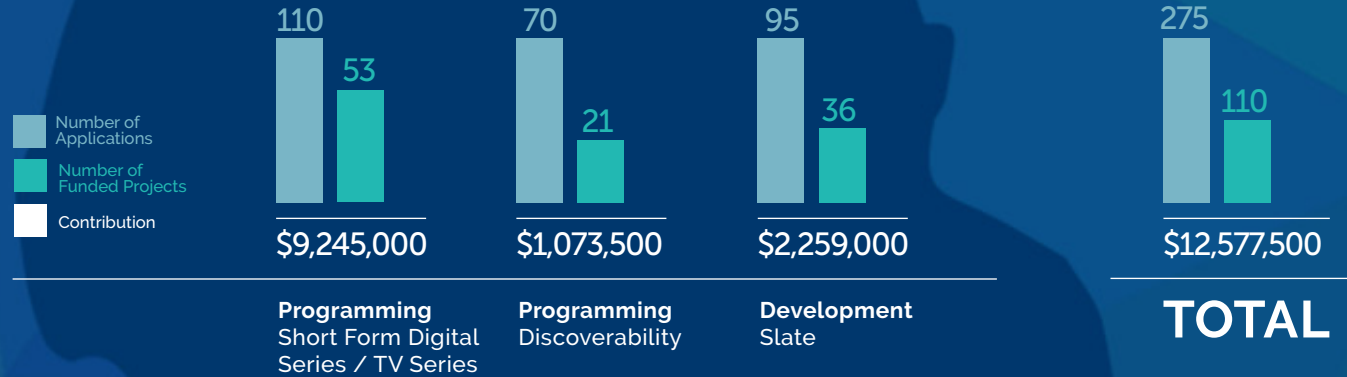
GÉOLOCALISER L'AMOUR

STATISTICS

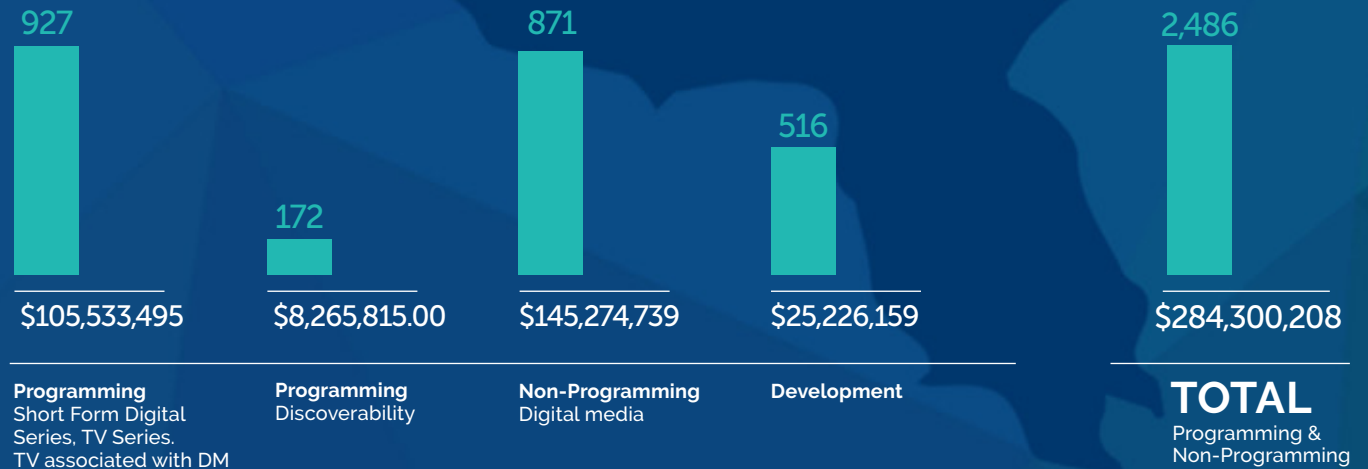
OVERVIEW

In 2023, Bell Fund provided financial contributions of over **\$12.5 million** to **110 projects**, supporting development and production of audio-visual programming. Included in this were **21 short-form digital series** with 21 accompanying audience development plans, **32 series for broadcast television** and **36 development slates**.

2023

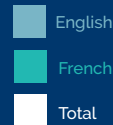


1997/2023



STATISTICS

PRODUCTION PROGRAM



2023



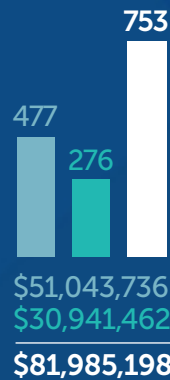
Programming
Short Form Digital Series :
Fiction / Non-Fiction



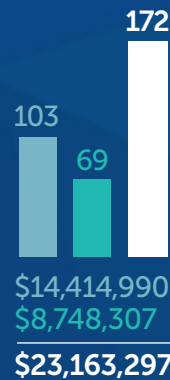
Programming
Television



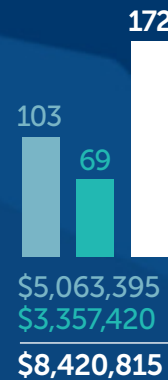
TOTAL



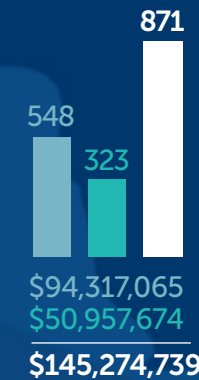
Programming
TV



Programming
Short Form
Digital Series:
Fiction / Non-Fiction



Programming
Discoverability



Non-Programming
Digital Media



TOTAL

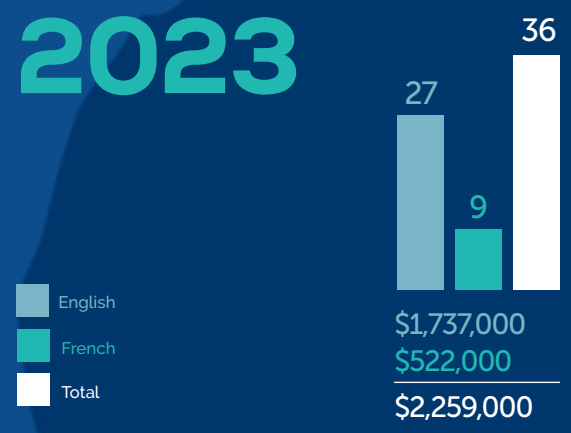
1997/2023

STATISTICS



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

2023



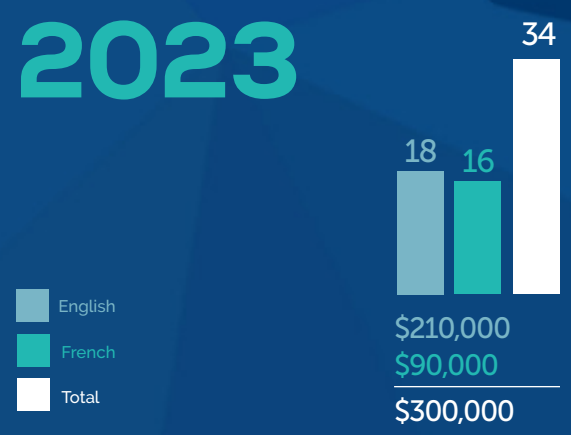
Slate Development

2001/2023



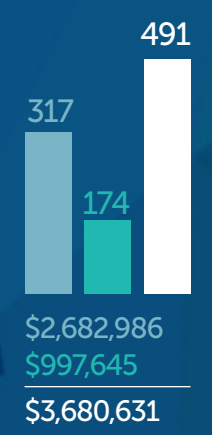
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

2023



Slate Development

2001/2023



STATISTICS

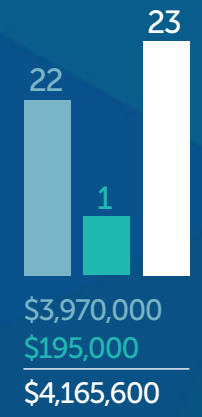
PROJECTS IN REGIONS



2023

- English-Language Projects Outside of Toronto & Vancouver*
- French-Language Projects Outside of Montreal**
- Total

- * British Columbia (Agassiz, Chilliwack, Cowichan Valley, Duncan, Harrison Lake, Keremeos, Langley, Nelson, Port Moody, Richmond and the Lower Mainland, Surrey, Terra Rosa Glacier Area, Vancouver Island, Victoria, Whinnox) Manitoba (Winnipeg) Newfoundland (St. John's) Nova Scotia (Cape Breton, Eskasoni, Glace Bay, Halifax, Membertou, Port Morien, Potlotek, St. Peter's, We'koqma'q, Whycomomagh) Ontario (Algonquin Park, Frankford, Guelph, Hamilton, Ottawa, Petrie Island, Rural ON, Sudbury) Quebec (Montreal) Yukon (Carmacks, Dawson City, Mayo, Whitehorse)
- ** Québec (Longueuil, Varennes, Compton, Coaticook, Hatley)



OFFICIAL LANGUAGE MINORITY COMMUNITIES (OLMC) 2023

2023

- English-language projects in Quebec
- French-language projects outside Quebec
- Total



STATISTICS

2023

Bell Fund Commitments by Region

30% of total funding outside ON/QC

YUKON
\$198,500

BC
\$1,969,000

PRAIRIE PROVINCES
\$898,500

ONTARIO
\$4,449,000

QUEBEC
\$4,475,000

ATLANTIC PROVINCES
\$587,500

YUKON
\$800,000

BC
\$51,283,759

PRAIRIE PROVINCES
\$40,157,856

ONTARIO
\$102,832,371

QUEBEC
\$80,844,731

ATLANTIC PROVINCES
\$31,808,567

Production Volume Triggered by Bell Fund

Total Production Volume : \$307,927,284

40% of total outside ON/QC

GETTING TO KNOW

REZOLUTION PICTURES

2023 has been an incredible year for Rezolution Pictures, especially with the release of our award-winning drama series, *Little Bird*, with the help of the BELL FUND's Slate Development Program, we were able to make it the best that it could be. Over the past twenty years, BELL FUND's support has been integral to our success today, by giving us the opportunity to develop projects that significantly represent various Indigenous perspectives from across Turtle Island—including the feature documentary *Spirit of the Mask*, about the profound Indigenous influence on Surrealism art, and other projects like the music documentary *Born To Be Wild*, a story about Steppenwolf, both which are currently in post-production.

My story and Catherine's, as co-founders of Rezolution Pictures, goes back a long time. We met at the CBC in the late 80s where we worked as journalists, even then, we were committed to telling stories that mattered to us.

In 1990, we were horrified by the brutal attacks against the Mohawk people during the Oka Crisis. As we watched the mainstream coverage of that 78 day stand-off between a small group of Mohawks and the Canadian army — we saw how little Canadians knew about the history of this country and how negatively they viewed Indigenous peoples. We quit our jobs at CBC then and there, and decided we were going to try and help change things. With the coming of three beautiful daughters into our lives, we were determined for their sakes, not to give up. It was a bold leap that we took without regret.



A FILM BY
OLIVER SCHWEHM

BORN TO BE WILD

THE STORY OF
STEPPEWOLF

REZOLUTION PICTURES in association with LUNABEACH TV & MEDIA PRESENTS
BORN TO BE WILD: THE STORY OF STEPPENWOLF A FILM BY OLIVER SCHWEHM
WRITTEN BY CATHERINE BAINGRIDGE PRODUCED BY HELMUT RINGMANN CO-PRODUCED BY MAKINE CHALIFOUX
EDITED BY JUDITH CARI KIGLAT MUSIC BY BENJAMIN CHAREST COSTUME DESIGNER JUDITH CATHERINE BAINGRIDGE
PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARKUS HILSS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY DANIEL NIGROIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS LINDA LUDWIG ERNEST WIEB RANBY LENNIX
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JORDANA ROSS PRODUCED BY TIMO GROSSPIETSCH PRODUCED BY MADINE NIEMANN WRITTEN BY
LISA M. ROTH PRODUCED BY MARKUS HILSS PRODUCED BY OLIVER SCHWEHM

CASTING BY JOHN KAY NICK ST. NICHOLAS MARS BONIFAY MICHAEL MONARCH ALICE COOPER
TAJ MAHAL CAMERON CROWE KLAUS MEINE HELLO BAFKA DALE GROVER BOB EZRIN

PRODUCTION COMPANIES: CHP, ENG, Quilley, LUNABEACH TV & MEDIA, TRISTAR, GEMINI, Canal, and others.

DISTRIBUTORS: NDR, arte, radiobremen, wdr, and others.

GETTING TO KNOW

Resolution Pictures officially began in 2000, and it was a long and bumpy road for many years. I remember once, in the early days, we walked into the office of a top broadcast executive in Toronto who, before we even sat down, opened our meeting by saying "I hope you aren't going to pitch me any of that Native crap".

Early in our careers, most broadcasters didn't want stories about Native people. If they did, they mainly wanted stories directed and written by non-natives—which was a strange trap for everyone: Non-natives, while well-intentioned, would often bring a lot of guilt to their stories, and portray Native people mostly as victims. So many shows ended up feeling really depressing and "good for you". And obviously, none of us wants to watch that kind of show. Most broadcast executives in those days didn't know Indigenous peoples are known for our great storytelling. They didn't know we are also hilarious despite all the dark chapters we have endured. They didn't know how rich our cultures are.

Accurate representation is so important. Growing up in the Cree community of Fort George, 16 hours north of Montreal in James Bay, all of us kids used to watch *Cowboys and Indians* movies in the parish hall or at the chapel. For some reason, we would cheer for the cowboys and never for the Indians. I suppose we didn't see ourselves on that screen.

How we are depicted and perceived on-screen deeply impacts our people and community. It is important we tell our own stories.

Over the years, there has been a beautiful shift within the industry, and BELL Fund is playing a strong and key role in supporting this change. The coming of APTN was the biggest and most important shift in our industry. Our people can now expect to see themselves accurately represented on screen. And other broadcasters now see how beautiful, sophisticated and global Indigenous storytelling can be. We are so proud of the talented Indigenous creatives who are emerging and we are grateful to the industry and organizations like the BELL Fund, who are playing an important role in supporting them. Our daughters have grown up seeing themselves on screen, something they can take for granted now.

REZOLUTION PICTURES



ERNEST WEBB



CATHERINE BAINBRIDGE



SPIRIT OF THE MASK

GETTING TO KNOW

REZOLUTION PICTURES

We at Rezolution Pictures are excited about the future, working and collaborating with storytellers to bring their stories to life. Funding from the BELL Fund has significantly impacted the preliminary work for many of our factual and drama projects, as there are few funding bodies in Canada who finance pre-development. We have been able to hire Indigenous writers, researchers and graphic designers for pitch decks, which then leads to development.

We appreciate that Bell Fund is committed to helping Indigenous voices to be heard.

Agooda/With gratitude,

Ernest Webb

Co-Founder of Rezolution Pictures



LITTLE BIRD

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

The goal of Bell Fund's Industry Development Program is to increase our impact on the industry through collaboration and strategic partnerships with organizations that share our commitment to supporting a more equitable, diverse, accessible, and inclusive industry across Canada. In 2023, we devoted 189 hours to training/outreach in support of producers/creators who are Indigenous and/or identify as being from an Equity-seeking community such as: Black and racialized; women and gender-diverse; 2SLGBTQIA+; and persons with disabilities. Additionally, we provided outreach support to emerging producers/creators and regional producers/creators with an emphasis on those outside of Ontario and Quebec.

Bell Fund is committed to setting up producers/creators for success when they apply to our funding programs. In 2023, we participated in 65 Industry partner events (including customized webinars for participants, face to face meetings, funding panels and roundtables). In addition, specific to our Bell Fund Programs, we delivered six webinars and twelve application clinics, all live and interactive, and published the sessions on our website as a resource for applicants.

By supporting producers/creators and through growing our strategic partnerships, the Bell Fund's Industry Development Program is having a strong impact and helping to build a vibrant and inclusive media Industry in Canada.

**Academy of Cdn Cinema & TV
- Anti Racism Training**

**Académie du Cinéma et
de la Télévision**

Atlantic Film Festival, FIN Partners

**Black Screen Office Script
Development Program**

**Cdn Media Producers Association,
Prime Time Conference**

Coalition M.É.D.I.A

Congrès AQPM

**Disability Screen Office,
Best Practice Guide**

DOC Atlantic Breakthrough

FactualWEST Conference

**Festival cinéma international
de l'Abitibi**

Festival Courts d'un soir

Gala ALLIA

Gala Prends ça court!

Gala Dynastie

**Halifax Black Film Festival,
The Black Market**

ImagineNATIVE Film Festival Pitch

Festival L'art s'invite au 3^e étage

Lunenburg Doc Fest & Pitch Contest

Les Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma

**Magnify Digital Audience Development
Webinars**

**National Screen Institute Access BIPOC
Producers Program**

**National Screen Institute Series
Incubator Program**

**NAWAL
(North African Western Asian Lab)**

**On Screen Manitoba, All Access
Conference**

Film PEI Market Accelerator Program

Gala Prix Numix (Xn Québec)

Reelworld Screen Institute, Film Festival

Reelworld Screen Institute, E20 Program

RIDM

St. John's Women's Film Festival Forum

Toronto Webfest & International Summit

**Whistler Film Festival, Indigenous
Fellowship**

Whistler Film Festival, First Look

**Women In Film & TV, Scripted Digital
Series Incubator**

**Youth Media Alliance Awards
of Excellence**

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT



ON SCREEN MANITOBA



GETTING TO KNOW

GORGEOUS MISTAKE PRODUCTIONS

Gorgeous Mistake Productions is a Nova Scotia based, boutique production company focused on independent film and television projects for theatrical, broadcast, and multi-platform release. Agnostic in our format, we strive to make impactful stories that resonate with audiences. Founded in 2000 by Walter Forsyth the company has had four Canadian Screen Award nominations, won a Canadian Comedy Award and TIFF's Pitch This! and created over 30 projects, from experimental short films to dramatic feature films.

Partnerships are integral to our success, including funders and co-producers. Bell Fund helped us develop two films recently as part of their Slate Development Program.

THE HANDS THAT FEED US, a co-production with Story Bubble Media in Vancouver, is a feature documentary exploring the complexity of Canadian farming. The film starkly reveals the challenges farmers face as the filmmaker, Devon Cooke, documents his foray into their day-to-day reality. What he learns challenges the preconceived notion of being a farmer that many in the urban rat-race hold out to be a "someday" dream. After its theatrical run, and a grass roots impact campaign, ***THE HANDS THAT FEED US*** will be shown on Superchannel with world-wide sale by Syndicado.



GETTING TO KNOW

A LIFETIME IN PHOTOBOOTHS, a co-production with Montreal based EyeSteelFilm, is another feature length documentary. On the 100-year-anniversary of the invention of analogue photobooths, artist and drag-king-extraordinaire Meags Fitzgerald sets out to save them from extinction and bring to light their historic importance as queer transformative spaces. After festivals and a theatrical run, the film will be on Crave. Production begins this Spring and is co-directed by Fitzgerald and Sarah Mackenzie.

If it isn't obvious, we love documentaries. In 2022 we released the feature documentary Elizabeth Bishop and the Art of Losing by John Scott. It explores the life of Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Elizabeth Bishop, and can be seen on CBC Gem. In 2020, GMP released a film about the poetry, pleasures and politics of bread by Darrell Varga called Bread in the Bones, which won Best Atlantic Documentary at FIN AIFF. Another fun feature project we made in 2008 was CUBERS, which looked at the world Rubik's Cube championships and was directed by Richard LeBlanc.

One recent project we are proud of is a digital series we created for Vice Canada called Living in Flow which looked at mental health. It won the 2023 Nova Scotia Screen Award for Best Television Series - Unscripted.

We can't help ourselves when it comes to scripted content as well. We made two seasons of a comedy series, Everyone's Famous, that was the first show that CBC played online before broadcasting it on their main network. That's how long we've been doing this. We produced How To Be Alone, the most successful BravoFact film with almost ten million views on YouTube. There's a Flower in My Pedal won Honourable Mention at the Toronto International Film Festival. Boyclops opened the Canadian Spectrum section at TIFF and Old St. Nick was selected as a Best Of short for TIFF.

We got started with music videos and produced Scott Pilgrim by Plumtree, which became a graphic novel series, a feature film (Scott Pilgrim Versus the World), a video game and now a series on Netflix. We also like genre films and have made several horror and horror comedy films. By the time you read this we will have made a dramatic feature film starring Sheila McCarthy, Mary Walsh and Amanda Brugel called Dancing On The Elephant.

Besides creating content, we put on the Hellifax Horror Film Fest in October and help present Lunenburg Doc Fest in September. Bell Fund also helps events like this with industry development support. Where would we be without the Bell Fund? **Thank you.**

Walter Forsyth
Producer, Writer, Director

GORGEOUS MISTAKE PRODUCTIONS



A LIFETIME IN PHOTOBOOTHS

EQUITY & INCLUSION

The Bell Fund's guiding principles affirm its commitment to contribute to a more equitable, accessible, diverse, and inclusive industry across Canada in its capacity as an independent production fund. This means supporting screen-based producers/creators who are Indigenous and/or identify as being from an Equity-seeking community such as Black, racialized, women and gender-diverse, 2SLGBTQIA+, persons with disabilities, regional and Official Language Minority Community (OLMC), and/or emerging screen-based producers/creators and teams.

In 2023, Bell Fund led a series of initiatives targeted at reducing barriers to access to its funding programs, fostering data-driven learning and decision-making, and increasing collaboration and outreach.

Key Initiatives

- Partnerships with industry organizations serving underrepresented communities, sponsorship of initiatives, and participation in panels and presentations and roundtables.
- Implementation of new approaches and tools to bring an equity and inclusion lens to the funding process from application to evaluation.
- Collection and analysis of demographic data from applicants to development and production programs.

The Bell Fund prioritizes accuracy, agency, and privacy in demographic data collection and analysis. The information we gathered in 2023 deepened the Fund's knowledge of diversity and inclusivity in relation to submitted and funded applications; allowed us to compare levels of meaningful representation among programs; and enhanced our ability to ensure authentic storytelling and to assess whether progress is being made in achieving the goals set out in our guiding principles.



D DOT H

EQUITY & INCLUSION INITIATIVES

Allia (FCTMN)

- *Gala Benefit 2023*

ACCT (Académie du Cinéma et de la Télévision)

- *Writers Pitch*

- *Public Lecture "Je me vois à l'écran"*

All Access Manitoba

- *Live presentations, in French and English, with local producers*

Caribbean Tales

- *Creators of Colour Incubator Presentation*

CBC/ CMPA One Stop Funding Workshop

- *Live panel, case studies, and meetings geared to emerging creators from underrepresented groups*

Coalition Média

- *Formation Entrepreneuriale M-É-D-I-A- | La base HEC for emerging producers from Indigenous, Black, and Racialized Communities*

ImagineNATIVE

- *Meetings with Indigenous producers*

Lunenburg Doc Fest

- *Pitch competition and funders' panel for emerging Nova Scotia creators*

National Screen Institute

- *Access BIPOC Producers Program*

- *Series Incubator Program Presentation*

Nawal

- *Screenwriting Incubator Presentation for emerging Quebec filmmakers from North Africa and West Asia*

Reelworld Film Festival

- *Emerging 20 Program 1x1 Meetings and Webinar*

Whistler Film Fest

- *Indigenous Fellowship Presentation*

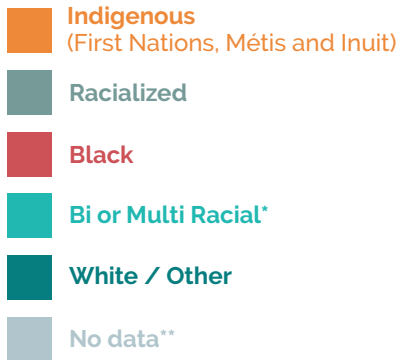
"Watch" Festival de cinéma international en Abitibi-Témiscaminghe

- *Master class for emerging film and digital creators.*

EQUITY & INCLUSION

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES: RACE & ETHNICITY

Majority ownership of approved applications



* The category 'Bi or Multi Racial' designates companies that are majority owned by an individual who identifies with multiple racial/ethnocultural communities or companies in which ownership is evenly split among individuals who identify with different racial/ethnocultural communities.

** The category 'No data' refers to the following situations: 1) owners indicated their preference not to disclose information about their race and ethnicity 2) owners did not complete Bell Fund's self-identification questionnaire.

Note Slate development program applications can range between 2 to 3 individual projects with a maximum Bell Fund contribution of \$25,000 per project. The funds allocated to each company are contingent on the number of projects in their Slate application and the funding amounts requested.

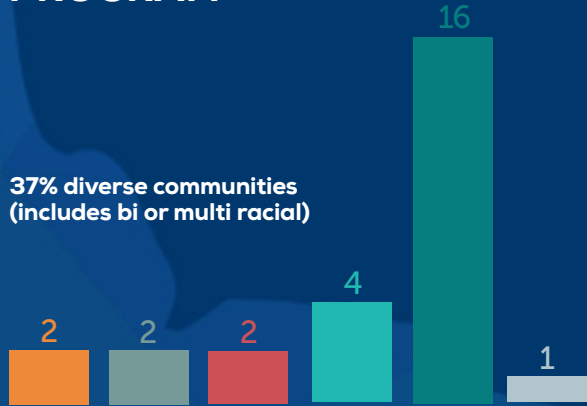
Bell Fund committed nearly \$2.6M to 21 companies led by individuals who are Indigenous and/or who self-identify as Black and/or Racialized. There is no significant gap between the share of approved applications from these communities and the share of funding allocated to them. However, there are differences in racial and ethnocultural representation among production programs.

In the Short-Form Digital Series Program, 29% of program funds were committed to companies led by individuals who are Indigenous and/or who self-identify as Black and/or Racialized (English 38% and French 13%).

The share of funds committed to these companies in the TV programs (Selective and MPF Envelope) is 12% (English 14% and French 10%).

SLATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

37% diverse communities (includes bi or multi racial)



ENGLISH Number of Funded Applications (27)

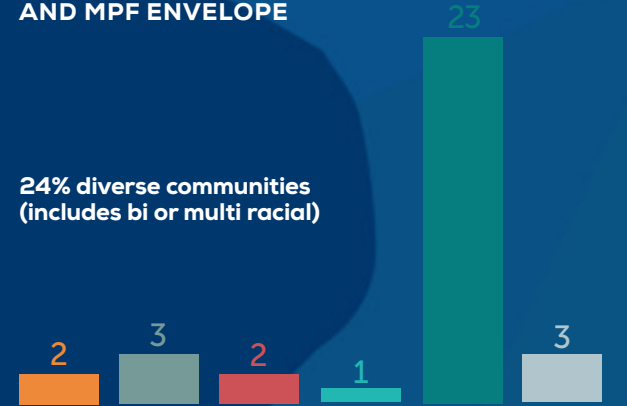


FRENCH Number of Funded Applications (9)

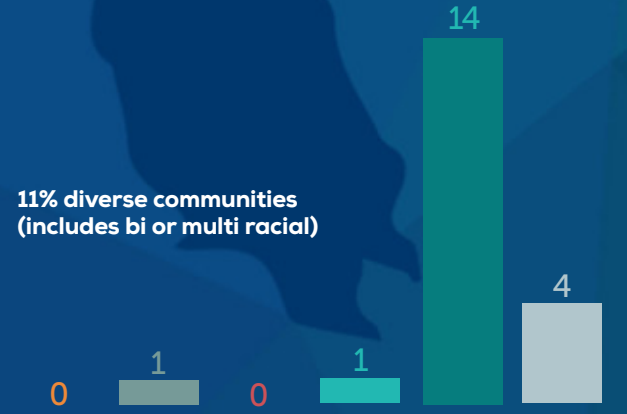
10% diverse communities (includes bi or multi racial)

PRODUCTION PROGRAMS SHORT-FORM DIGITAL SERIES, TV SELECTIVE AND MPF ENVELOPE

24% diverse communities (includes bi or multi racial)



ENGLISH Number of Funded Applications (34)



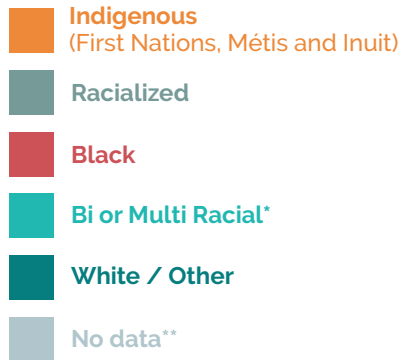
FRENCH Number of Funded Applications (20)

11% diverse communities (includes bi or multi racial)

EQUITY & INCLUSION

DIVERSE COMMUNITIES: RACE & ETHNICITY

Majority ownership of approved applications



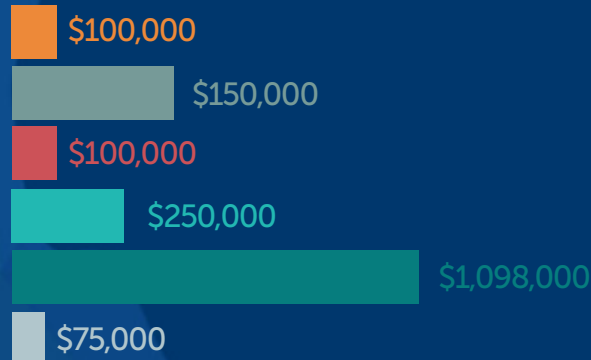
* The category 'Bi or Multi Racial' designates companies that are majority owned by an individual who identifies with multiple racial/ethnocultural communities or companies in which ownership is evenly split among individuals who identify with different racial/ethnocultural communities.

** The category 'No data' refers to the following situations: 1) owners indicated their preference not to disclose information about their race and ethnicity 2) owners did not complete Bell Fund's self-identification questionnaire.

Note Slate development program applications can range between 2 to 3 individual projects with a maximum Bell Fund contribution of \$25,000 per project. The funds allocated to each company are contingent on the number of projects in their Slate application and the funding amounts requested.

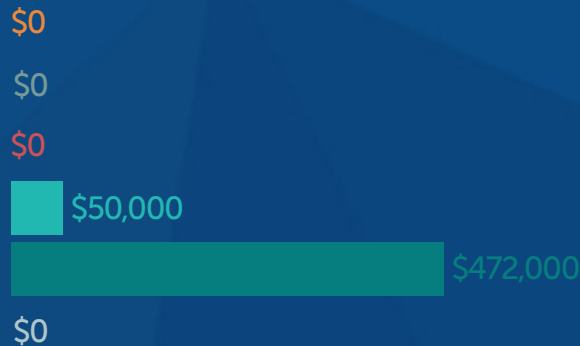
SLATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

34% diverse communities (includes bi or multi racial)



ENGLISH Bell Fund Funding (\$1,773,000)

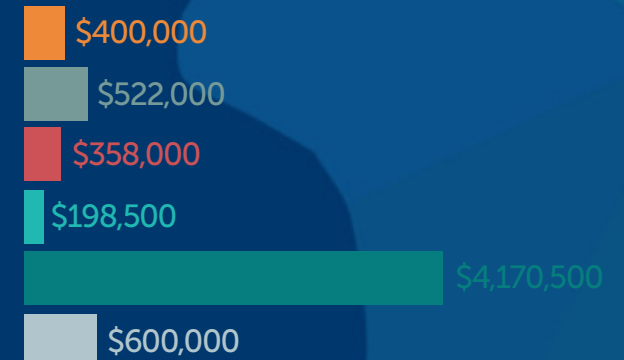
10% diverse communities (includes bi or multi racial)



FRENCH Bell Fund Funding (\$522,000)

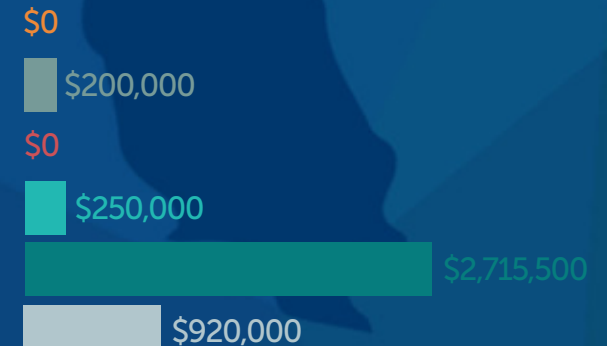
PRODUCTION PROGRAMS SHORT-FORM DIGITAL SERIES, TV SELECTIVE AND MPF ENVELOPE

24% diverse communities (includes bi or multi racial)



ENGLISH Bell Fund Funding (\$6,249,000)

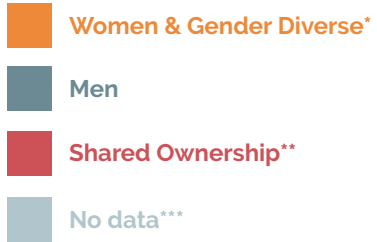
11% diverse communities (includes bi or multi racial)



FRENCH Bell Fund Funding (\$4,085,500)

EQUITY & INCLUSION GENDER EQUITY

Majority ownership of approved applications



* 'Gender diverse' is an umbrella term that includes Two-Spirit, Non-Binary, Genderqueer, and Gender Non-Conforming individuals, as well as those who identify with other gender identities.

** 'Shared Ownership' designates companies in which ownership is evenly split between two groups: group 1: individuals who identify as women and gender diverse group 2: men.

*** The category 'No data' refers to the following situations: 1) owners indicated their preference not to disclose information about their race and ethnicity 2) owners did not complete Bell Fund's self-identification questionnaire.

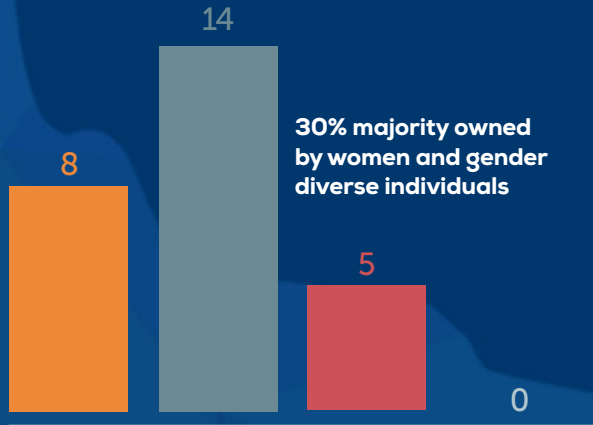
Note Slate development program applications can range between 2 to 3 individual projects with a maximum Bell Fund contribution of \$25,000 per project. The funds allocated to each company are contingent on the number of projects in their Slate application and the funding amounts requested.

In terms of gender equity, \$4.2M was committed to 30 companies led by women and gender diverse individuals. There is no significant gap between the share of approved applications from women and gender diverse-led companies and the share of funding allocated to them. However, there are differences in gender representation among production programs.

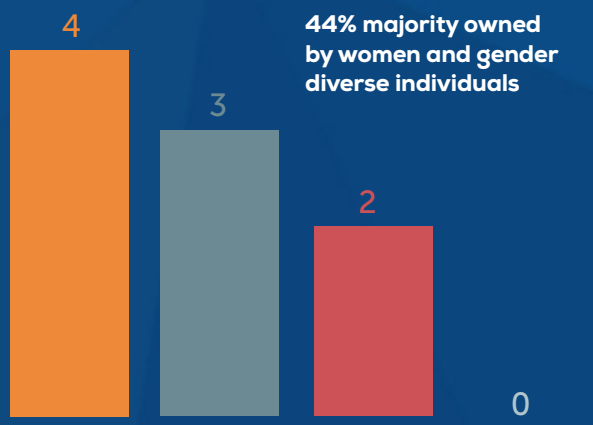
In the Short-Form Digital Series Program, 57% of program funds were committed to companies that are majority owned by women and gender diverse individuals (English 77% and French 23%).

The share of funds committed to these companies in the TV programs (Selective and MPF Envelope) is 19% (English 16% and French 24%).

SLATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

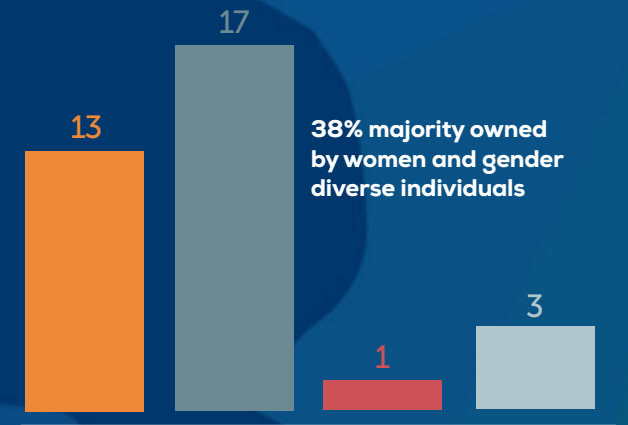


ENGLISH Number of Funded Applications (27)

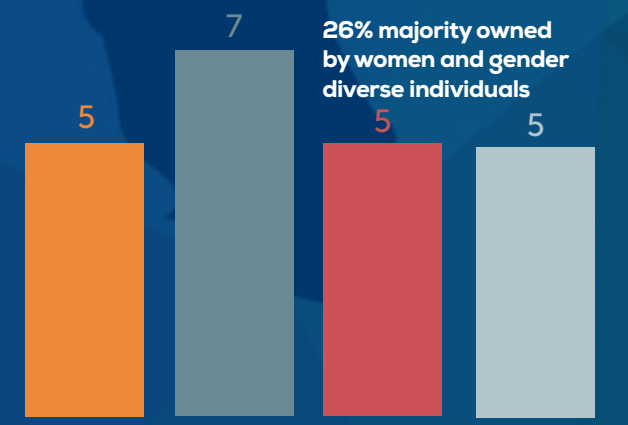


FRENCH Number of Funded Applications (9)

PRODUCTION PROGRAMS SHORT-FORM DIGITAL SERIES, TV SELECTIVE AND MPF ENVELOPE



ENGLISH Number of Funded Applications (34)



FRENCH Number of Funded Applications (22)

EQUITY & INCLUSION GENDER EQUITY

Majority ownership of approved applications



* 'Gender diverse' is an umbrella term that includes Two-Spirit, Non-Binary, Genderqueer, and Gender Non-Conforming individuals, as well as those who identify with other gender identities.

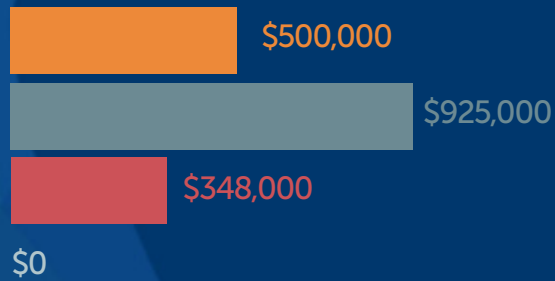
** 'Shared Ownership' designates companies in which ownership is evenly split between two groups: group 1: individuals who identify as women and gender diverse group 2: men.

*** The category 'No data' refers to the following situations: 1) owners indicated their preference not to disclose information about their race and ethnicity 2) owners did not complete Bell Fund's self-identification questionnaire.

Note Slate development program applications can range between 2 to 3 individual projects with a maximum Bell Fund contribution of \$25,000 per project. The funds allocated to each company are contingent on the number of projects in their Slate application and the funding amounts requested.

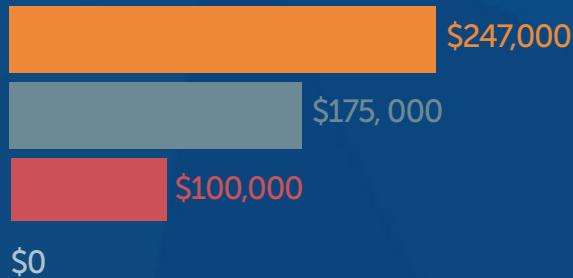
SLATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

28% women and gender diverse individuals



ENGLISH Bell Fund Funding (\$1,773,000)

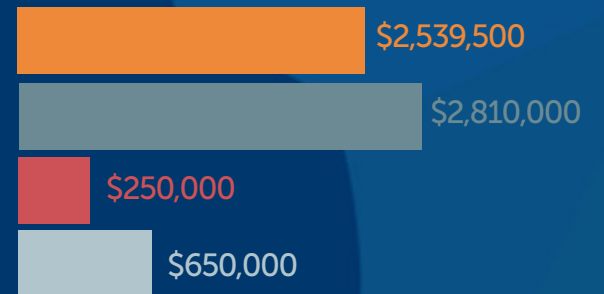
47% women and gender diverse individuals



FRENCH Bell Fund Funding (\$522,000)

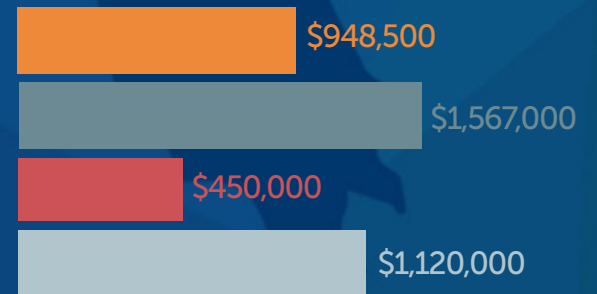
PRODUCTION PROGRAMS SHORT-FORM DIGITAL SERIES, TV SELECTIVE AND MPF ENVELOPE

41% women and gender diverse individuals



ENGLISH Bell Fund Funding (\$6,249,500)

23% women and gender diverse individuals



FRENCH Bell Fund Funding (\$4,085,500)

GETTING TO KNOW

PARAMOUNT+

Paramount+ in Canada applauds the inspiring mission statement of the Bell Fund to “support Canadian media content makers in creating for and connecting with, audiences here and everywhere.”

Through the invaluable slate fund, production companies have been fortunate to have the support of broadcasters, distributors, and streamers – and Paramount+ in Canada is delighted to now be in a position to offer support to members of the Canadian creative community with their applications.

In particular, we salute the Bell Fund’s guiding principle to support “a more equitable, diverse, and inclusive industry across Canada.”

Every successful media project in Canada starts with an idea – sometimes a crazy and whacky idea, sometimes a deeply personal and intimate idea – but behind every idea is a creative person. And it is these creators – from across Canada – that are not only changing the way Canadians see themselves, but how the world sees us. In fact, they are insisting upon it.

As psychologist James Hillman has famously said, “We can’t change anything until we get some fresh ideas, until we begin to see things differently.”

The Bell Fund helps both Canadians and the world see Canada differently, it helps creators show us that there must be different ways of *seeing* the world and of *being* in the world, and, most importantly, it does this because it offers our writers and producers financial support to turn their ideas into realities.

This past year, Paramount+ in Canada was thrilled to see that two drama series we supported received funding from the Bell Fund: Out Soul Productions’ ***Slice*** from Ian Steaman and Canfro Productions, ***By the Next Pause*** from Anthony Q Farrell.

The Bell Fund allows Paramount+ in Canada, like all other commissioning bodies, the privilege and the opportunity to build deeper relationships with the Canadian creative community, to support underrepresented talent and company development, and to work today with tomorrow’s brightest stars.

Tom Hastings
Head of Original Programming



TOM HASTINGS

FUNDED PROJECTS

PRODUCTION

SHORT FORM DIGITAL SERIES

The Program provides funding to produce premium-quality, original, linear video series in the genres of fiction (drama, comedy, children's and youth) and non-fiction (documentary, factual and lifestyle). Funding is also available for discoverability and requires Producers to provide audience development plans. There is no requirement for a broadcast licence to trigger funding but instead Producers can apply with a Canadian online distribution platform or a non-Canadian online distribution platform available to Canadians.

In 2023, Producers had the support of 9 broadcaster digital platforms and 2 YouTube channels. Periodically the Fund enlists feedback from the production community to gauge the effectiveness of our programs. Recently we undertook an online survey followed by in-depth 1x1 interviews in English and French with successful applicants.

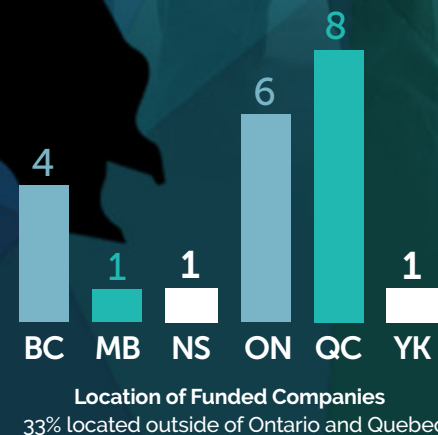
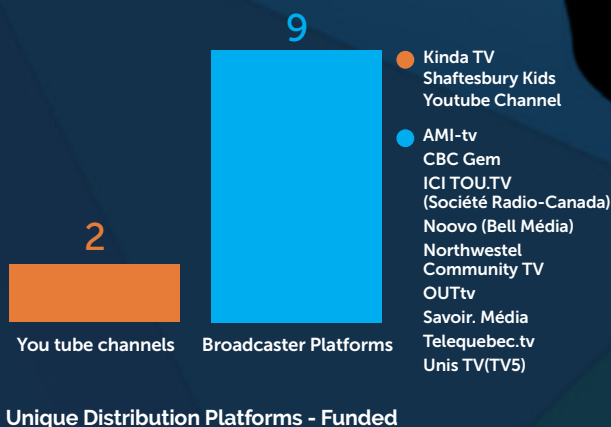
Top responses why applicants wanted to produce short-form digital series were:

- To maintain IP ownership
- To tell authentic stories that have historically not been seen on linear broadcast
- Ability to use non-broadcaster licence agreements as there is limited access to Canadian broadcaster decision-makers
- As a calling-card for the Producer and creative team to prove themselves

Measures of Success

To measure the potential success of each project all applications are evaluated by an independent jury based on the following assessment criteria:

- **Track record of company and key creative team**
- **Key creative roles are occupied by individuals who are Indigenous, who identify as Black, Racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+ and persons with disabilities**
- **Key creative roles are occupied by women and/or gender diverse persons**
- **Originality and excellence of creative materials**
- **Distribution Platform**
- **Budget and finance plan**
- **Audience Development Plan**



PRODUCTION



ANIMALOGIC
SECOND NATURE SEASON 2

FUNDED PROJECTS

SHORT FORM DIGITAL SERIES NON-FICTION

EVERY BODY CURIOUS

A fun and illuminating web series for young people and their parents that explores the birds and the bees with ease in today's digital landscape.

PC: Louise Pollard Productions
EP: Louise Pollard
P: Louise Pollard
G: Factual
CL: Toronto, ON
PL: Toronto, GTA
BP: Shaftesbury Kids YouTube Channel

FINDING DIAMONDS

In this heartwarming series, filmmaker Ian Bawa crosses the country with his dog Diamond to share stories about how pets have helped Canadians overcome tragedy and trauma.

PC: Farpoint Films
EP: Kyle Bornais
P: Scott R. Leary, Quan Luong, Ian Bawa
G: Documentary
CL: Winnipeg, MB
PL: Toronto, ON / Winnipeg, MB / Halifax, NS / Quebec City, QC / Moosonee, ON / Regina, SK
BP: CBC Gem

GET HOOKED

This isn't your dad's fishing show. A fresh take on how queer, black, Indigenous and disabled people turn the mental health benefits of fishing into pure joy.

PC: Bone Vault Inc.
EP: Jefferson Mappin
P: Heidi Lynch
G: Documentary
CL: London, ON
PL: Ottawa, Algonquin Park, Petrie Island, Toronto, ON
BP: OUTtv, AMI-tv

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS

SHORT FORM DIGITAL SERIES
NON-FICTION

KILLJOY COMEDY SEASON 2

Killjoy Comedy puts the microphone in front of Canada's best new stand-up comics, who are queering and diversifying stand-up, and staging nothing short of a laugh riot.

PC: Titular Productions
EP: Shana Myara, Sharon McGowan, Emily Chan
P: Shana Myara
G: Documentary
CL: Vancouver, BC
PL: Vancouver, BC
BP: OUTtv

LA PRÉHISTOIRE DU QUÉBEC

On the trail of an unknown past, science humorously reveals the extraordinary creatures that once roamed Quebec and the cataclysmic events that helped shape our land!

PC: Ari A Cohen Productions
EP: Ari A. Cohen
P: Ari A. Cohen
G: Documentary
CL: Outremont, QC
PL: Outremont, QC
BP: Savoir Média - savoir.tv



TALENTS D'ICITTE

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS

SHORT FORM DIGITAL SERIES FICTION

DEGREES OF SEPARATION

In this smart and stylish ensemble comedy, Indigenous PhD student Delphine Purcell plots a daring heist to return Ancestral remains to her tribe. But first, she and her team must outwit the collectors who have descended upon the community like vultures ready to pick the bones clean.

PC: **Tooth & Nail Pictures**
EP: **Eva Grant**
P: **Yasmeen Grant, Eva Grant**
G: **Comedy**
CL: **Saanichton, BC**
PL: **Victoria, BC**
BP: **KindaTV**
YouTube Channel

DETOX SEASON 2

After their escape attempt, Zach and Léa return to the rehab centre, but the pressure is too great and Zach is expelled. Life outside the centre is full of temptations, but his motivation returns. On the road to redemption, he must choose between love and healing.

PC: **UGO Multimédia**
EP: **Shawn Bedford, Nathalie Vézina, Patrick Bilodeau**
P: **Patrick Bilodeau**
G: **Drama**
CL: **Montreal, QC**
PL: **Montreal, QC**
BP: **TV5- TV5unis.ca**

**I HATE PEOPLE,
PEOPLE HATE ME**

PRODUCTION

DISCRÈTES

The night Macha saves Gaby from Manu, her attacker, the two embark on a quest for revenge to exact justice themselves, at the risk of having everything spiral out of control.

PC: Les Productions Avanti-Toast
EP: Patricia Blais, Monic Lamoureux, Ian Quenneville
P: André Dupuy, Marie-Alexandra Forget
G: Drama
CL: Montreal, QC
PL: Montreal, QC
BP: Radio-Canada ICI Tou.tv

GOOD GRIEF

Abigail has come to terms with the decision to sell her late wife Dorothy's Drag Bar, but an unexpected visit from Dorothy's daughter, Cameron, throws everyone's plans of moving on into chaos.

PC: Pumpkin Patch Productions
EP: Amy Trefry
P: Katerina Bakolias, Erica Meus-Saunders
G: Comedy
CL: Habitant, NS
PL: Halifax, NS
BP: OUTtv

ILS SONT PARMIS NOUS

The Aerospace Control Agency of Canada (ACAC), dedicated to the investigation of extraterrestrial phenomena, is now threatened with closure. Lies, kidnappings, fake news: a team of five civil servants embarks on a series of hijinks in the hope of saving their jobs.

PC: Productions Pixcom
EP: Nicola Merola, Charles Lafortune
P: Véronique Paquette-Corriveau
G: Drama
CL: Montreal, QC
PL: Longueuil, QC
BP: Bell Média - Noovo.ca

FUNDED PROJECTS

SHORT FORM DIGITAL SERIES
FICTION



ÇA PREND PAS LA TCHAS À PAPINEAU

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS

SHORT FORM DIGITAL SERIES
FICTION

J'ADORE LE JUS

A true caffeine-fuelled epic inviting audiences to follow the adventures of Mathieu, a disillusioned teenager who finds himself embroiled in the twists and turns of a brand-new, highly lucrative energy drink company: ZOOP™.

PC: Casadel Films
EP: Patrick Francke-Sirois
P: Patrick Francke-Sirois, Juliette Provost-Dubois
G: Comedy
CL: Montreal, QC
PL: Montreal, QC
BP: Bell Média - Noovo.ca

MACY MURDOCH SEASON 2

Season two follows Macy, Billie and Zane as they receive a plea from their archnemesis and former TA, Kurt, who is stranded in 1911 and wanted for murder. The teens must head back to the past — again — to help solve the murder and bring Kurt back to the present.

PC: Shaftesbury Digital III Inc.
EP: Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, Jennifer McCann, Yannick Bissons
P: Alex House
G: Children's Live Action
CL: Toronto, ON
PL: Toronto, ON
BP: CBC Gem



NORTHERN TAILS

A cast of puppets explore how animals in the Boreal Forest interact with each other, their environment, northern people and the wider world. Come meet your neighbours!

PC: Shot in the Dark Productions
EP: N/A
P: Kelly Milner
G: Children's Live Action, Comedy
CL: Whitehorse, YT
PL: Whitehorse, YT
BP: Northwestel Community TV

NOVELETTE IS TRYING

A queer, anti-social Black woman takes in a quirky roommate after being dumped by her partner, which forces her to confront the lack of purpose, love and connection in her life.

PC: Orange Rose Productions
EP: Giselle Miller
P: Nancy Kamar, Giselle Miller
G: Comedy
CL: Vancouver, BC
PL: Vancouver, BC
BP: OUTtv

PRODUCTION



HOW TO FAIL AS A POPSTAR

FUNDED PROJECTS

SHORT FORM DIGITAL SERIES FICTION

ON JOUE! AVEC BISCUIT ET CASSONADE SEASON 2

On joue! avec Biscuit et Cassonade is a fun, inspirational series for preschoolers. In each episode, Biscuit, Cassonade, and their babysitter Caroline invite little ones to nurture their creativity and explore symbolic play as they embark on a new adventure.

PC: Écho Media
EP: Luc Châtelain
P: Emilie Beaulieu, Sarah Châtelain
G: Children's Live Action
CL: Montreal, QC
PL: Montreal, QC
BP: Télé-Québec - telequebec.tv

PIONEER GIRL

When feminist history PhD Eleanor gets kicked out of academia for setting her professor and former lover's car on fire after he steals her ideas for his book, she's forced to take a job at her worst nightmare: A cheesy pioneer village where it's always 1867 and women don't even have the vote.

PC: Fenton and Smordin Pictures
EP: Davida Aronovitch, Leah Rumack
P: Kate Fenton, Breann Smordin
G: Comedy
CL: Toronto, ON
PL: Guelph, ON
BP: Kinda TV YouTube Channel

PRODUCTION

SOUTHERN INTERIOR

A sketch comedy series set in the mountainous bohemian enclave of Nelson British Columbia, the last earnest place on earth. Satirizing and celebrating the eclectic citizenship, the show is concerned with how tight proximities can promote community where residents chase cynicism away one kombucha at a time.

PC: Watershed Productions
EP: Amy Bohigian
P: Gregory Mackenzie
G: Comedy
CL: Nelson, BC
PL: Nelson, BC
BP: Kinda TV YouTube Channel

SYNCHRO

SYNCHRO is a luminous comedy about the budding friendship between Oli, an aspiring neurotypical DJ, and Thomas, who has Down syndrome. At first glance, they seem to have little in common, but they develop a surprising complicity driven by their shared passion for electronic music.

PC: Productions ToRos
EP: Julie Snyder
P: Marc S. Grenier
G: Comedy
CL: Montreal, QC
PL: Montreal, QC
BP: TV5 - Unis TV

FUNDED PROJECTS

SHORT FORM DIGITAL SERIES
FICTION



20H30 CHEZ MATHIEU

PC: Production companies / EP: Executive Producers / P: Producers / G: Genre
CL: Company Locations / PL: Production Locations / BP: Broadcasters-Platforms
All projects must be closed-captioned with described video.

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS

SHORT FORM DIGITAL SERIES
FICTION

T-REX

Édouard doesn't fit the popular standards of masculinity, and this makes him feel like an impostor. During a weekend at the cottage with his childhood friends, Renaud and Xavier, he discovers that despite their mutual bond, they no longer have a positive impact on each other and are trapped in a dangerous game of virility.

PC: **inséparables films**
EP: **Jérémie Boucher, Gabriel Savignac**
P: **Jérémie Boucher, Gabriel Savignac**
G: **Drama**
CL: **Montreal, QC**
PL: **Estrie, QC**
BP: **Télé-Québec - telequebec.tv**

TWO BROTHERS

Follows Aiden and Aaron, a set of fraternal twins who have struggled all their lives with finding acceptance within society, as they move to the small town of Severn Bridge. Not only are they visible minorities, but one is also gay. The two are faced with heartache, death, and betrayal.

PC: **Meikle Productions**
EP: **Andrew Meikle**
P: **Allisha Pelletier**
G: **Drama**
CL: **Hamilton, ON**
PL: **Hamilton, ON**
BP: **OUTtv**



KILLJOY COMEDY

WELL VERSED

Mason is an expert on queer romance, and a matchmaker with a booming success rate. When it comes to love, he knows it all ... except the answer to why he can't keep a boyfriend.

PC: **Border2Border Entertainment**
EP: **Brad Danks, Philip Webb**
P: **Charlie David**
G: **Comedy**
CL: **Toronto, ON**
PL: **Toronto, ON**
BP: **OUTtv**

GETTING TO KNOW

SILO ENTERTAINMENT

SILO Entertainment Inc. is a content development, production and rights holding company based in Vancouver, Canada. SILO is engaged in the ownership, development and production of feature films, scripted and factual television series and one-off documentaries for a Canadian and global audience. The Company options, identifies or conceives original film, television and digital content while retaining ownership rights in the same IP it develops and/or produces. SILO specializes in Canadian and international co-productions and helps structure agreements with various parties that will participate in the financing, production, distribution and marketing of the content it produces. The company was founded by Mel D'Souza in 2005 and is based in Vancouver, BC.

The Company has had one of its busiest production runs which began in 2022, with the support of Bell Fund's Slate Development Fund. With this funding support SILO was able to further develop three of its documentary projects by creating teasers for each. After completing the three Demo Phases, SILO was able to pitch the three projects at various international markets and conferences around the world, and to broadcasters and funding agencies here in Canada. The result was that two of the three projects secured production funding allowing them to head into production.

One of the three projects supported by Bell Fund's Slate Development Program was ***Clan of the Painted Lady***. SILO started pre-production of this feature doc in December 2023, and will begin production by February of this year, with Knowledge Network as its commissioning broadcaster and with further support from CMF's ERPB funding program.



GETTING TO KNOW

The second project that was also supported by Bell Fund's Slate Development Program is ***Dress For Excess***. This will be SILO's most ambitious project to date and the company is incredibly proud to be producing this feature documentary with Screen Siren Pictures as its co-production partner. ***Dress For Excess*** is a recipient of production funding from Telefilm's Theatrical Documentary Fund, CMF's POV Fund, and has Photon Film as its distribution partner, and CRAVE as its content platform partner in Canada.

Over the past few years SILO has completed a number of documentary projects, including ***Genius Factory*** (2017), the TELUS Original feature doc ***Finding Freedom*** (2022) and the TELUS Storyhive short doc titled, ***The O Show*** (2021). SILO just completed and delivered the feature doc ***Bending Light*** (2024), which was supported by three Canadian broadcasters, and Sweden TV.

From its very beginning SILO has been committed to producing content with diverse stories and talent both in-front and behind the camera and is extremely pleased to have played a small role to help push forward some of the current Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) changes seen within the Canadian content industry today. The Company strives to work with talent and to tell stories that reflect a true Canadian demographic and strongly believes the content it creates will be seen both in Canada and around the world. This thinking aligns with the Bell Fund and its program as well and its reassuring to see funding support for DEI projects allowing diverse stories to be seen and heard.

I cannot say enough about how important Bell Fund is to Canadian Producers and Production entities, allowing Canadian content creators of all backgrounds and experiences to further research, develop and produce their stories. I personally want to thank Suzanne Lacey and her team at Bell Fund for guiding and advising me with the application process for the Slate Development Fund. My Company is playing an active role in the Canadian content industry and it feels like we're on much more solid ground today - **thank you Bell Fund!**

Mel D'Souza
President and Executive Producer

SILO ENTERTAINMENT



MEL D'SOUZA



CLAN OF THE PAINTED LADY

FUNDED PROJECTS

PRODUCTION

TV PROGRAM

The **TV Program(s)** support Producers by providing financing to deliver premium-quality, market driven series, in the genres of lifestyle, documentary, scripted drama, and comedy, for English and French language broadcasters, reaching audiences in Canada and around the world.

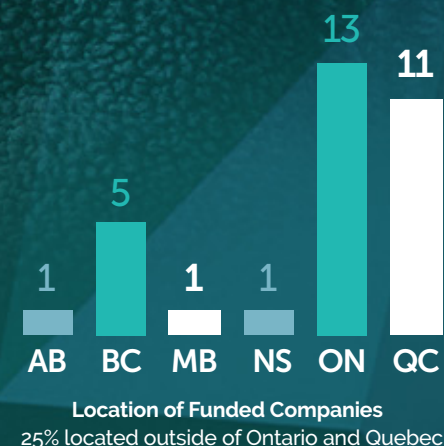
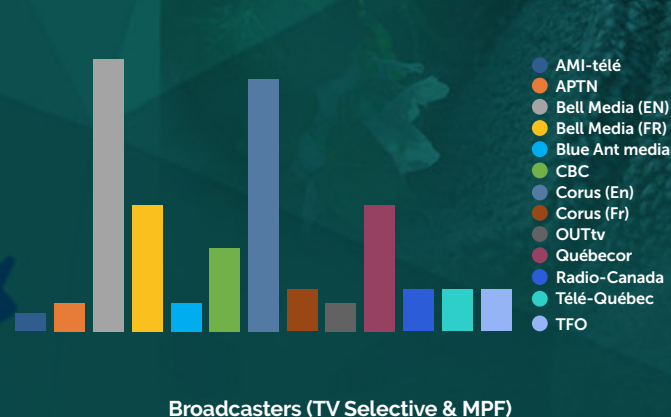
The **TV Selective Program** allocates funding for the production of series licensed by French and English, public and private, independent broadcasters.

The **TV Major Production Funder Program** provides funding envelopes to English and French private broadcasting groups. Funds are allocated to broadcasters based on past performance in making Canadian Programming Expenditures ("CPE") of \$125M for English and \$50M. for French. While broadcasters commit the funds to specific series in the genres of lifestyle, documentary and scripted drama and comedy, the funding is provided to the Producer as the copyright holder.

Measures of Success

An independent jury assesses the potential for success based on the following criteria for the TV Selective Program and provides its recommendations to the Board for approval:

- **Track record of applicant company and creative team**
- **Key roles are occupied by individuals who are Indigenous, who identify as Black, Racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+ and/or persons with disabilities**
- **Key creative roles are occupied by women and/or gender diverse persons**
- **Creative materials**
- **Budget, schedule, financing for approval.**



PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS TV PROGRAM

ACTING GOOD SEASON 2

After falling flat on his face in the big city, Paul tries to slip unnoticed back into his fly-in community of Grouse Lake First Nation – if only his eccentric family and friends would let him.

PC: Kistikan Pictures
EP: Phyllis Laing, Jennifer Beasley, Paul Rabliauskas, Eric Toth, Tim Fontaine
P: Tina Keeper
G: Comedy
CL: Winnipeg, MB
PL: Winnipeg, MB
BP: Bell Media, APTN

ALERTE SEASON 5

The Cerbère Squad is reeling from the murder of Captain Roméo Goulet, who was shot to death in the HQ parking lot. Fortunately, Captain Duquette is back on the case, working with investigators to find the culprit and to shed light on the mysterious disappearance of the future Minister of Economy.

PC: Productions Pixcom
EP: Nicola Merola, Charles Lafortune
P: Isabelle Courval
G: Drama
CL: Montreal, QC
PL: Greater Montreal, QC
BP: Groupe TVA (TVA)

ALLEGIANCE

This is the story of Sabrina Sohal, a star rookie police officer who must grapple with the limits of the justice system as she fights to exonerate her falsely accused politician father, and serve her diverse hometown alongside a veteran training officer who sees her potential but doesn't always agree with her forward-thinking methods.

PC: Lark Productions
EP: Erin Haskett, Nicole Mendes, Tex Antonucci, David Valteau
P: Brad Van Arragon
G: Drama
CL: Vancouver, BC
PL: Surrey & Langley, BC
BP: CBC



SIGHT UNSEEN

AVANT LE CRASH SEASON 2

With Évelyne and François in the midst of a bitter divorce, Vincent missing, and Patrick and Marie-Michèle struggling to make a new family model work, Marc-André seems to be the one recovering best from the crash. But for how much longer?

PC: Productions Sovimage
EP: Sophie Deschênes
P: Sophie Deschênes
G: Drama
CL: Montreal, QC
PL: Montreal, QC
BP: Radio-Canada (ICI Télé)

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS

TV PROGRAM

BÊTE NOIRE SEASON 2

One February evening, Pascale Joubert, 35, poisons her two children and then tries to kill herself. Éliane Sirois reunites with her old accomplice, Sergeant Boisvert (who has just come out of retirement), to investigate the past of this seemingly unremarkable woman.

PC: **Encore Télévision**
EP: **François Rozon, Julie Provençal**
P: **Louis Bolduc**
G: **Drama**
CL: **Montreal, QC**
PL: **Montreal, QC**
BP: **Corus (Séries Plus)**

BRYAN'S ALL IN SEASON 1

Bryan travels off the beaten track to help people build their dream projects.

PC: **Si Entertainment**
EP: **Frank Halbert**
P: **Jessica Benchemam**
G: **Lifestyle**
CL: **Toronto, ON**
PL: **Rural Ontario**
BP: **Corus (HGTV)**

CONTRE- OFFRE SEASON 4

The small Lévesque family business competes with big agencies in the competitive real estate market. Dysfunctional but endearing, the Lévesque team accompanies stressed-out clients in the purchase and sale of a variety of properties.

PC: **Productions Pixcom**
EP: **Nicolas Merola, Charles Lafortune, Sylvie Desrochers**
P: **Martin Roy**
G: **Comedy, Drama**
CL: **Montreal, QC**
PL: **Montreal, QC**
BP: **Bell Média (Noovo)**

L'AIR D'ALLER

40

Bell
FUND

AR
2023

PC: Production companies / EP: Executive Producers / P: Producers / G: Genre
CL: Company Locations / PL: Production Locations / BP: Broadcasters-Platforms
All projects must be closed-captioned with described video.

PRODUCTION

DEADMAN'S CURSE: LEGEND OF THE LOST GOLD SEASON 3

Season 3 presents new evidence linking Slumach to early Spanish gold exploration, tracing new clues with surprising connections to the Legend of the Lost Creek Gold Mine.

PC: **Great Pacific Media Inc.**
EP: **Michael Francis, Tim Hardy, Neil Zuyderduyn, Lindsay Macadam, Tony Chung, David Way**
P: **David Way**
G: **Documentary**
CL: **Burnaby, BC**
PL: **Agassiz, Chilliwack, Harrison Lake, Terrarosa Glacier Area, Whinnock, Keremeos, Port Moody, BC**
BP: **Corus (History Television)**

DON'T HATE YOUR HOUSE WITH THE PROPERTY BROTHERS SEASON 1

Real-life renovation superheroes, Jonathan and Drew Scott work with homeowners who can't, or won't, move from their homes, despite obvious stresses, and answer the big question – can they ever love their homes?

PC: **Scott Brothers Entertainment**
EP: **Jonathan Scott, Andrew Scott, Josie Crimi, Katherine Buck**
P: **Jen Oddi**
G: **Lifestyle**
CL: **Toronto, ON**
PL: **Los Angeles, USA**
BP: **Corus (HGTV)**

DRAG HEALS SEASON 4

Drag artists combine their deeply personal stories with the glitter of drag to create cathartic performances for a live audience.

PC: **Border2Border Entertainment**
EP: **Philip Webb, Brad Danks**
P: **Charlie David**
G: **Documentary**
CL: **Toronto, ON**
PL: **Toronto, ON**
BP: **OUTtv**

FUNDED PROJECTS TV PROGRAM



LITTLE BIRD

PC: Production companies / EP: Executive Producers / P: Producers / G: Genre
CL: Company Locations / PL: Production Locations / BP: Broadcasters-Platforms
All projects must be closed-captioned with described video.

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS

TV PROGRAM

EAST HARBOUR HEROES SEASON 2

A saltwater-soaked journey to the easternmost point of North America, where a vibrant community of tough individuals battle the rugged coast and the North Atlantic Ocean to live and work on the edge of the world.

PC: **Attraction Images**
EP: **Nicole Hamilton, Richard Speer, Jonathan Dueck**
P: **Lauren Hugh Pease**
G: **Documentary**
CL: **Toronto, ON**
PL: **St Johns, NL**
BP: **Bell Media (Discovery Canada)**

FAMILY LAW SEASON 4

Lawyer and recovering alcoholic Abigail Bianchi struggles to put her career and family back together after hitting rock bottom. Forced to serve her probation at her estranged father's firm, she practices family law for the first time while forging new relationships with half siblings she's never met.

PC: **Seven24 Films**
EP: **Jordy Randall, Tom Cox, Erin Haskett, Susin Nielsen**
P: **David Valteau**
G: **Drama**
CL: **Calgary, AB**
PL: **Vancouver and Langley, BC**
BP: **Corus (Global)**

GESPE'GEWA'GI: THE LAST LAND SEASON 3

A fun and exciting look at Mi'kmaq fisheries and their connection to the people, their traditions, and their homeland.

PC: **Rezolution Pictures**
EP: **Ernest Webb, Catherine Bainbridge, Christina Fon, Linda Ludwick, Greg Lawrence**
P: **Lisa M Roth**
G: **Documentary**
CL: **Outremont, QC**
PL: **Cape Breton, Port Morien, Glace Bay, Membertou, We'koqma'q, Potlotek, St. Peter's, Whycocomagh, Eskasoni, NS; Lennox, Abegweit, Wharell Warf, Bideford, PEI**
BP: **APTN**

LES YEUX FERMÉS

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS TV PROGRAM

HOTEL BEYROUTH

After fleeing the war in Lebanon, Zeina and Fady's family moves to Canada in the early 1990s. The family home soon becomes a destination for Lebanese exiles, much to the despair of the two youngsters who are forced to share a room.

PC: **Productions Sahkosh**
EP: **Josiane Blanc, Ania Jamila Huard, Daniela Mujica**
P: **Josiane Blanc, Ania Jamila Huard, Daniela Mujica, Éric Idriss-Kanago**
G: **Drame**
CL: **Toronto, ON**
PL: **Montreal, QC**
BP: **TFO**

INDÉFENDABLE SEASON 3

Indéfendable plunges us into the heart of the criminal defence firm Lapointe, MacDonald & Nolin. From career criminals to first-time defendants, they all call on these compassionate, combative professionals with one goal in mind — to be acquitted.

PC: **Productions Pixcom**
EP: **Nicola Merola, Charles Lafortune**
P: **Izabel Chevrier**
G: **Drame**
CL: **Montreal, QC**
PL: **Greater Montreal, QC**
BP: **Groupe TVA (TVA)**

LA CLÉ DESCHAMPS SEASON 2

La clé Deschamps is Martin Deschamps' exploration of the importance of music in the careers of artists with disabilities.

PC: **Iprod média**
EP: **Isabelle Maréchal**
P: **Emilie Emond, Marie-Hélène Fortier**
G: **Documentary**
CL: **Montreal, QC**
PL: **Rawdon, QC**
BP: **AMI-télé**



BRYAN'S ALL IN

LA RECONSTRUCTION D'ANNA BRODEUR

After a ten-year-long self-imposed exile in Paris, Anna Brodeur returns to Quebec under exceptional circumstances. This homecoming is not without its share of anxiety-inducing moments. Step into Anna's life, with all its ups and downs!

PC: **Sphère Média**
EP: **Bruno Dubé**
P: **Josée Vallée**
G: **Drama**
CL: **Montreal, QC**
PL: **Greater Montreal, QC**
BP: **Bell Média (Noovo)**

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS

TV PROGRAM

L'AIR D'ALLER SEASON 2

A touching and luminous story of four friends in their twenties who are literally running out of air. They all have the same lung disease: cystic fibrosis. Despite running out of breath quickly and spitting up blood, they are bursting with life.

PC: **URBANIA**
EP: **Philippe Lamarre,**
Raphaëlle Huysmans
P: **Annie Bourdeau**
G: **Comedy, Drama**
CL: **Montreal, QC**
PL: **Montreal, QC**
BP: **Télé-Québec**

L'ARÉNA

L'Aréna is a sketch comedy that explores everyday situations in a humorous yet realistic way, following a cast of characters as they interact in this iconic venue that Quebecers know so well. Ice hockey, ringette, figure skating, greasy fries, and a Zamboni—what more could you hope for?

PC: **Entourage Production TV**
EP: **Eric Young**
P: **Jen Oddi**
G: **Comedy**
CL: **Longueuil, QC**
PL: **Laval, QC**
BP: **Bell Média (Noovo)**

MADE FOR TV WITH BOMAN MARTINEZ-REID

Follows influencer Boman Martinez-Reid as he makes the jump from social media personality to television star. Enlisting the help of celebrity advisers to guide him along the way, Boman tests out different genres of television to see if he has what it takes to reach TV stardom.

PC: **Alibi Entertainment**
EP: **James Hyslop,**
Joanne Virgo,
Boman Martinez-Reid
P: **Joseph Case**
G: **Documentary**
CL: **Toronto, ON**
PL: **Toronto, ON**
BP: **Bell Media (Crave)**

BRIA MACK GETS A LIFE

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS TV PROGRAM

MYSTERIES FROM ABOVE SEASON 3

Investigates significant, historic and contemporary locations with a unique view from above. Every episode explores four different mysteries, each revealing astonishing new discoveries, many of which dramatically change the way we see ourselves and the world around us.

PC: **Saloon Media**
EP: **Michael Kot, Betty Orr, Tara Elwood**
P: **Paul Kilback**
G: **Documentary**
CL: **Toronto, ON**
PL: **Toronto, ON / London, UK / Florida, USA / Peru**
BP: **Blue Ant (Cottage Life)**

ONE MORE TIME

Together with his team of employees, a hard-of-hearing manager of a used sporting goods store, tries to stay afloat in the modern age of big box stores and online retailers, while lending a helping hand, and ear, to the town he loves.

PC: **Counterfeit Pictures**
EP: **DJ Demers, Jessie Gabe, Anton Leo, Shane Corkery, Dan Bennett**
P: **Colin Brunton**
G: **Comedy**
CL: **Toronto, ON**
PL: **Toronto, ON**
BP: **CBC, AMI**

PAMELA'S COOKING WITH LOVE

Follows Pamela Anderson and a series of sought-after chefs as they prepare delicious feasts for Pamela to enjoy with her guests.

PC: **Fireworks Group Canada**
EP: **Jesse Fawcett, Robert Hardy, Brandon Lee, Trevor Hodgson**
P: **Robert Hardy, Erin Redden**
G: **Lifestyle**
CL: **Vancouver, BC**
PL: **Duncan, Cowichan Valley, Vancouver Island, BC**
BP: **Corus (Food Network Canada)**



ALLEGIANCE

PETS & PICKERS SEASON 3

A documentary series that chronicles the regional animal protection society (raps).

PC: **LCV 1 Productions**
EP: **Tyson Hepburn**
P: **Tyson Hepburn, Jen Mcauley**
G: **Documentary**
CL: **Vancouver, BC**
PL: **Vancouver, Richmond, the Lower Mainland, BC**
BP: **Bell Media (Animal Planet)**

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS TV PROGRAM

RENOVATION RESORT

An action-packed competition series where teams of seasoned builders and designers, who are trail-blazers in their fields, prove their skills in the ultimate challenge: to resurrect a forgotten, historic, waterfront resort.

PC: McGillivray Entertainment
EP: Scott McGillivray, Kelly Wray, Nanci MacLean, Angela Jennings
P: Jess Vander Kooij
G: Lifestyle
CL: Toronto, ON
PL: Frankford, ON
BP: Corus (HGTV)

SHORESY SEASON 2

Shoresy joins the Sudbury Bulldogs of the Northern Ontario Senior Hockey Organization (aka The NOSHO) on a quest to never lose again.

PC: New Metric Media
EP: Jared Keeso, Jacob Tierney, Mark Montefiore, Kara Hafidson
P: Brendan Brady, Kaniehtiio Horn
G: Comedy
CL: Garson, ON
PL: Sudbury, ON
BP: Bell Media (Crave)

SIGHT UNSEEN

After losing her vision, former homicide detective Tess Burke is haunted by the unsolved cases she left behind. When she meets professional seeing-eye guide Sunny Patel, they decide to take action.

PC: Blink49 Studios & Sight Unseen S1 Productions BC
EP: Charles Cooper, Virginia Rankin, John Morayniss, Carolyn Newman, Karen Troubetskoy, Niko Troubetskoy, Russ Cochrane, John Fawcett, Derek Schreyer
P: Charles Cooper, Virginia Rankin
G: Drama
CL: Toronto, ON
PL: Majority in and around Vancouver, BC and in GTA, ON
BP: Bell Media (CTV)



SORCIÈRES

The discovery of a naked baby near their old family land awakens old secrets and leads three sisters—Joe, Beth, and Agnes—to meet again after 30 years of silence.

PC: Amalga Créations Médias
EP: André Dupuy
P: André Dupuy, Marie-Alexandra Forget
G: Drama
CL: Montreal, QC
PL: Montreal, Saint-Come, QC
BP: Groupe TVA (TVA)

PRODUCTION

FUNDED PROJECTS

TV PROGRAM

SULLIVAN'S CROSSING SEASON 2

After Neurosurgeon Maggie Sullivan's personal and professional life is thrown into turmoil, she returns home to Sullivan's Crossing.

PC: **Auguste Content & Sullivan's Crossing S2 Ontario**
EP: **Roma Roth, Chris Perry, Robyn Carr**
P: **Ann Bernier, Mark Gingras**
G: **Drama**
CL: **Halifax, NS**
PL: **Halifax, NS & Toronto, ON**
BP: **Bell Media (CTV)**

TOP CHEF CANADA SEASON 11

This prestigious and exciting cooking competition returns for a milestone eleventh season featuring Canada's most promising up and coming chefs fighting for culinary glory.

PC: **Insight Productions**
EP: **Eric Abboud, John Brunton**
P: **Deanne Marsh, Daniel Klimitz**
G: **Lifestyle**
CL: **Toronto, ON**
PL: **Toronto, ON**
BP: **Corus (Food Network Canada)**

YUKON RESCUE

Follows first responder agencies in the Yukon. From wildfire to structural fire, search and rescue to conservation, this series captures the day-to-day duties of those who answer the call for help in one of the most inhospitable places in the world.

PC: **YR1 Productions Inc.**
EP: **Pricilla Hui**
P: **Matthew Shewchuk**
G: **Documentary**
CL: **Burnaby, BC**
PL: **Whitehorse, Dawson City, Mayo, Carmacks, YT**
BP: **Corus (History Television)**

LES BOMBES

GETTING TO KNOW

TÉLÉQUÉBEC

The Bell Fund has been a key ally of Quebec's television and multimedia industry for over 25 years. It is an essential partner for a sector that's constantly reinventing itself and taking risks to stay relevant while also contending with international competition backed by colossal resources.

Thanks to its support for local independent productions, the Bell Fund plays a decisive role in guiding projects from the conceptual phase to broadcast. An important lever for creation, innovation, and daring in Quebec's cultural sector, the Bell Fund gives us the freedom to venture into different, out-of-the-ordinary projects and to take risks supporting the next generation of artists. The Fund thus allows us to broaden our horizons and those of our audiences, in line with Télé-Québec's goal of continuing to be an incubator of talent in dramas, magazine programs, documentaries, or youth programming.

Many Télé-Québec series would never have seen the light of day in their current form without the support of the Bell Fund. It has enabled us to begin developing projects for which our funding alone would have been insufficient. Several of the projects we've supported have made their mark both here and abroad, such as the incomparable *Like-moi!* (Zone3) and *M'entends-tu?* (Trio Orange)—which have catapulted young talent to the forefront of Quebec's cultural landscape and have won several awards—and *L'air d'aller* (Urbania), a new drama series with a unique voice. There is also hard-hitting content that tackles themes rarely explored in traditional media, all while reaching new audiences—content that would probably not have been released without the support of the Bell Fund. Take, for example, *Décoloniser l'histoire* (Picbois), which won the YMCA Peace Medal in 2021 for its exploration of the lesser-known chapters in our history, or *Les racines du hip-hop au Québec* (Major Productions).



GETTING TO KNOW

The Slate Development Program helps us support producers right from the conceptual phase of their projects, giving our teams the opportunity to share their knowledge and expertise with audiences in mutually beneficial producer-broadcaster exchanges.

As one of the few reference points for youth audiences in French-speaking Canada, Télé-Québec continues to present a wide range of content tailored to this target audience, with its particular characteristics and needs. Series such as ***On joue! avec Biscuit et Cassonade*** (Écho Média), financed by the Bell Fund, stimulate toddlers' imaginations and celebrate creativity in a caring and supportive atmosphere.

As a public broadcaster, we're fortunate to be able to count on the Bell Fund, which encourages the production of innovative projects originating in Quebec's Francophone market. In a rapidly changing media landscape, it's especially important to support local creators in their efforts to offer programming that reflects Quebec's attachment to its culture, language, and history.

Nadine Dufour
Vice-President of Content

TÉLÉQUÉBEC



NADINE DUFOUR



ON JOUE! AVEC BISCUIT ET CASSONADE

FUNDED PROJECTS

DEVELOPMENT

SLATE

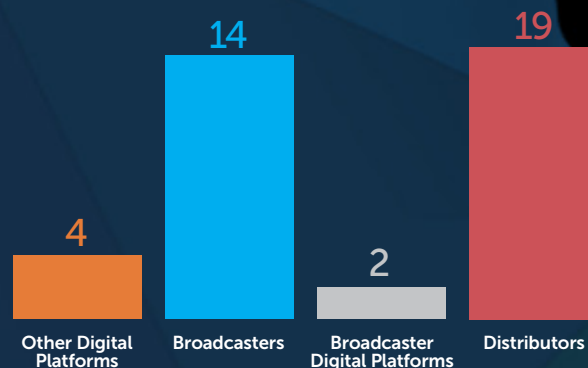
The program provides financial support to Canadian independent production companies for the development of up to three projects of original intellectual property (IP). Successful production companies are provided an advance. When and if the development of a project proceeds to production, the Producer returns the development advance. The objective of the program is to grow and foster the independent production industry by expanding the Canadian IP pipeline and to support company growth with a focus on emerging and mid-career creators who are Indigenous and/or identify as being from an Equity-seeking Community such as Black, racialized, women and gender-diverse, 2SLGBTQIA+ and persons with disabilities.

Producers are required to have a market interest partner, that may be a Canadian broadcaster but could also be a distributor or a digital platform/channel, to oversee the development with the Producer, reviewing and providing feedback on creative materials. In 2023, the Program facilitated connections between 36 production companies with a combined 92 funded projects and 39 market partners.

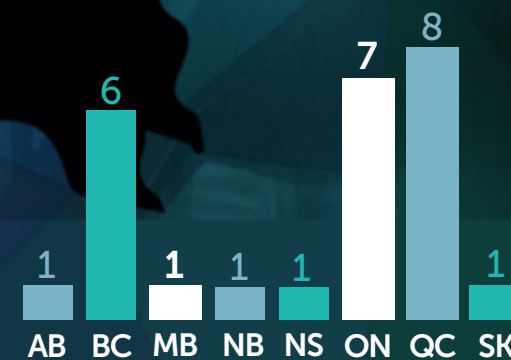
Measures of Success

To measure the potential success of each project all applications are evaluated by an independent jury based on the following assessment criteria:

- **Track Record of Company**
- **Projects contribute to Company business goals**
- **Creative Team**
- **Team contributes to diverse, equitable & inclusive industry**
- **Development and Finance plans, budget**
- **Project deliverables**
- **Market Interest Partner(s)**
- **Producer Statement**



Unique Market Interest Partners



Location of Funded Companies
31% located outside of Ontario and Quebec.

DEVELOPMENT

FUNDED PROJECTS SLATE

3 STORY PICTURES

EP: Doug Cuthand, Sandra Cunningham
P: Saxon de Cocq, Ell McEachern, Hannah Hermanson
G: Documentary TV Series, Drama TV Series
CL: Outlook, SK
MI: APTN

BIG GAY MOVIES

EP: Jay D. Beechinor
P: Bob Christie, Morris Chapdelaine
G: Documentary, Documentary TV Series
CL: Vancouver, BC
MI: Cineflix Rights

CAROUSEL PICTURES

EP: Mark Sakamoto
P: Tyler Levine, Naveen Prasad, Katelyn Cursio
G: Documentary TV Series, Drama TV Series
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: Bell Media, The CW Network

86 MEDIA HOUSE

EP: Sam Sutherland, Dave Harris, Mark Suknanan,
Caroline Torti
P: Sam Sutherland, Hubert Davis, Soko Negash
G: Documentary
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: Elevation Pictures

BLACK ELEPHANT PRODUCTIONS

EP: Martine Brouillet
P: M. H. Murray
G: Drama Web Series, Documentary
CL: Kilworthy, ON
MI: OUTtv, Indiecan Entertainment

CINEFLIX STUDIOS

EP: Brett Burlock, Sonia Hosko, Pablo Salzman
P: Brett Burlock, Pablo Salzman
G: Drama TV Series, Comedy TV Series
CL: Montreal, QC
MI: Cineflix Media

ART ET ESSAI INC.

EP: Jeanne-Marie Poulain, Irène Bessone,
Anaëlle Béglet, Line Sander Egede
P: Laurence Wells
G: Fantasy Web Series, Documentary Web Series
CL: Montreal, QC
MI: Travelling Distribution

BLUE ANT MEDIA

EP: Michael Kot, Melissa Williamson, Caitlin D.Fryers,
Shaun Hamill, Aileen Gardner, Betty Orr
P: Melissa Williamson, Kim Creelman, Aileen Gardner,
Steve Gamester, Mike Bickerton
G: Drama TV Series, Documentary TV Series
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: Paramount+, CBC

CONQUERING LION PICTURES

EP: N/A
P: Damon D'Oliveira
G: Drama TV Series
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: Elevation Pictures, CBC

DEVELOPMENT

FUNDED PROJECTS SLATE

CULTIVATION PICTURES

EP: Sandy Hunter, Clem McIntosh, Adrian Greenlaw,
Mike Allison, Byron Leckie
P: Sandy Hunter, Clem McIntosh, Byron Leckie
G: Comedy TV Series, Documentary
CL: Florenceville-Bristol, NB
MI: CBC, Super Channel

KATAWAK PRODUCTIONS

EP: Tasha Hubbard, Shane Belcourt
P: Jon Montes, Tasha Hubbard, Shane Belcourt
G: Drama TV Series
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: APTN, CBC

LOADED PICTURES

EP: Sergio Kirby
P: Sergio Kirby, Neil Brandt
G: Documentary TV Series, Documentary
CL: Montreal, QC
MI: FilmOption International

DON QUIXOTE PRODUCTIONS

EP: Leah Cameron
P: Leah Cameron, Elizabeth Evans
G: Comedy Web Series, Comedy TV Series
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: FunnyOrDie.Com, The Coven/Foxglove

LES PRODUCTIONS PASSEZ GO INC.

EP: Marie-Claude Blouin, Félix Tétreault
P: Vicky Bounadère
G: Comedy TV Series, Sci-Fi TV Series, Drama TV Series
CL: Montreal, QC
MI: Télé-Québec, Radio-Canada – ICI Télé, Bell Média

MARKHAM STREET FILMS

EP: Judy Holm
P: Judy Holm, Michael McNamara
G: Documentary, Documentary TV Series
CL: Stratford, ON
MI: LevelFILM, Abacus Media Rights, Off The Fence

FITTONIA PRODUCTIONS INC

EP: Marie-Claire Marcotte, Corey Loranger
P: Marie-Claire Marcotte
G: Drama TV Series, Comedy Web Series, Drama Podcast
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: Radio-Canada – ICI Télé, HG Distribution

LIGHTNING MILL

EP: Cody Lightning
P: Joshua Jackson
G: Comedy TV Series
CL: Edmonton, AB
MI: Bell Media - Crave, APTN

MARTINE AIMAÏT LES FILMS INC.

EP: Émilie Lavoie, Camille Mongeau
P: N/A
G: Comedy TV Series, Drama TV Series,
Drama Children's TV Series
CL: Montreal, QC
MI: Crazy Cow sprl-bvba distribution (Belgique)

DEVELOPMENT

FUNDED PROJECTS SLATE

MISS MAGIC PRODUCTIONS

EP: Caitlin Brown, Vanessa Magic, Ramona Barckert
P: Caitlin Brown, Vanessa Magic
G: Drama TV Series, Comedy TV Series
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: CBC

MOI ET DAVE

EP: David Baeta
P: Virginie Corneau, Simon Madore,
G: Documentary, Documentary Children's TV Series
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: Radio-Canada – ICI Télé, TFO

NAVA PROJECTS

EP: Christina Piovesan, Kathryn Liptrott
P: Sahar Yousefi
G: Drama TV Series,
Documentary TV Series
CL: Dartmouth, NS
MI: CBC, B.In Media

ODDFELLOWS PICTURES

EP: Chris Ferguson, Marliana Mah, Sophie Caird
P: N/A
G: Animated TV Series, Drama TV Series
CL: Vancouver, BC
MI: Corus, Elevation Pictures

OYA MEDIA GROUP

EP: N/A
P: Alison Duke, Ngardy Conteh George
G: Drama Web Series, Documentary TV Series
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: Kweli TV, CBC

PICBOIS PRODUCTIONS

EP: Karine Dubois
P: Marie-Pierre Corriveau, Isabelle Couture
G: Documentary TV Series, Documentary Podcast
CL: Montreal, QC
MI: Bell Média – Canal D, Radio-Canada-OHDio

PRODUCTIONS VERSION 10

EP: Caroline Gaudette
P: N/A
G: Animated Children's TV Series, Drama TV Series
CL: Bromont, QC
MI: Radio-Canada – ICI Télé, Groupe TVA, HG Distribution

REALITY DISTORTION FIELD

EP: Stephen Hegyes, Simon Barry
P: N/A
G: Drama TV Series, Comedy TV Series
CL: Vancouver, BC
MI: Omnifilm Entertainment, Elevation Pictures

REALLIFE PICTURES DEVELOPMENT

EP: Kulbinder Saran Caldwell
P: Kulbinder Saran Caldwell
G: Drama TV Series
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: OUTtv, Channel Zero

DEVELOPMENT

FUNDED PROJECTS SLATE

RED FOX PRODUCTIONS

EP: N/A
P: Sarah Kelley
G: Fantasy TV Series, Drama TV Series
CL: Richmond, BC
MI: Bell Media

RESONANT PICTURES

EP: N/A
P: Champagne Choquer
G: Comedy Children's TV Series, Documentary
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: AMI-tv, The Green Channel

SLAP HAPPY CARTOONS

EP: Kathy Antonsen, Dennis Heaton, Michael Buble
P: Kathy Antonsen
G: Animated Children's TV Series
CL: Vancouver, BC
MI: g Story Media Group

SOAPBOX PRODUCTIONS

EP: Nick Orchard, Blair Peters
P: Nick Orchard, Marie Clements
G: Drama TV Series, Comedy TV Series
CL: Vancouver, BC
MI: Paramount+, Elevation Pictures, CBC

SPIKE & SADIE MEDIA

EP: Ira Levy, Chris Sheasgreen, Yas Tallat,
Yipeng Ben Lu, Diane Boehme
P: N/A
G: Drama TV Series, Comedy TV Series
CL: Toronto, ON
MI: Distribution360

THE CHOSEN ARE FEW

EP: Jonathan Gajewski
P: Jonathan Gajewski, Chris Regina, Leah Rifkin,
Mackenzie Wong
G: Sci-Fi TV Series, Drama TV Series
CL: Mississauga, ON
MI: Paramount+

UGO MULTIMÉDIA

EP: N/A
P: Patrick Bilodeau, Sonia Despars
G: Comedy TV Series, Drama TV Series
CL: Montreal, QC
MI: TV5 - Unis TV, Bell Média

URBANIA

EP: Philippe Lamarre, Raphaëlle Huysmans
P: Annie Bourdeau
G: Comedy TV Series, Drama TV Series
CL: Montreal, QC
MI: Télé-Québec, Corus - Série Plus

ZOOT PICTURES

EP: Leslea Mair
P: Leif Kaldor
G: Documentary
CL: Winnipeg, MB
MI: CBC, LGI International

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CLARE BROWN | Independent

Clare is a senior finance leader with experience in the media, broadcasting and technology sectors. She has overseen both corporate and operational finance teams, and has extensive experience with financial reporting, budgeting and forecasting, M&A and financing. She is currently VP Finance with McGillivray Entertainment Inc. Clare is a CPA (CA) and holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Queen's University.



DENISE COOPER | Independent

Denise Cooper is a lawyer and strategic business advisor to publicly traded and privately held companies and leaders in the Canadian and international media and technology space, as well as venture-funded startups. Her expertise is in the areas of corporate/commercial, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, privacy, film and television licensing, production and distribution, employment and intellectual property law, and she was recognized by L'expert in 2005 when she received the Top 40 Under 40 In-house Counsel Award. Prior to entering private practice, Denise was Vice President and General Counsel for Virgin Mobile Canada. Prior to that, she spent 14 years at CHUM Limited, where she served as Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary. In addition to sitting as a director on the Bell Fund, Denise is currently a director of Interactive Ontario. Denise received her Bachelor of Laws Degree (J.D.) from Osgoode Hall at York University (Toronto) and a Master of Law Degree (LL.M.) from Columbia University (New York). She is a member of both the Ontario and New York State Bars.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



LENORE GIBSON | Bell

Lenore is Assistant General Counsel at BCE Inc., Canada's largest communications company. In this role, she provides regulatory and copyright advice for both its media (Bell Media) and broadcast distribution (Bell TV) divisions. Lenore joined BCE following its acquisition of CTVglobemedia in 2011 and was previously at CHUM Limited prior to its purchase by CTVglobemedia in 2007. In addition to sitting as a director of the Bell Fund, Lenore is also the current Chair of the Radio Starmaker Fund, and a former Chair of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters. Lenore holds a Bachelor of Arts (1992) and a Bachelor of Laws (1996) from the University of Western Ontario.



PREM GILL | Vice-Chair / Independent

Prem Gill is CEO of Creative BC, the economic development organization focused on uniting, sustaining, and growing B.C.'s dynamic and diverse creative sector. Gill has been named one of Canada's 100 most powerful women and has received the Community Catalyst Award from the Greater Vancouver Board of Trade. She brings more than 25 years of experience from the digital media and entertainment industries to her current role and has championed Canadian creativity as a representative and spokesperson to media, industry and government at all levels.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



BRAD PELMAN | Independent

Brad Pelman is an executive producer, advisor, consultant, and filmed content distribution expert with over 30 years of experience. He has held positions previously with Sony Pictures, Lionsgate Entertainment, Maple Pictures and Alliance Films. Presently he is President of Creator Rights Co. where he is working with content creators to develop, finance and eventually produce their filmed entertainment projects. Pelman joined the board of directors of the National Screen Institute (NSI) in 2009 having served as Co-Chair and presently Vice Chair of the Board. NSI is a Winnipeg MB based school dedicated to training the next generation of Canada's content creators through practical real-world placement and workplace experience sharing initiatives. Pelman joined the Bell Fund Board in November of 2019 and serves on the programming committee.



NAVEEN PRASAD | Chair / Independent

Naveen Prasad is a media executive and content producer. He is the Co-Founder of Impossible Objects, a film and television production company he launched in 2017. He also served as the President of the VICE Media Group in Canada, having stepped down in 2020. Prior to VICE, Prasad was the EVP & GM of Elevation Pictures. He was also previously the SVP of Television & Digital at both eOne and Alliance Films. Prasad's producing credits include Executive Producer of the Netflix Original series *BETWEEN*, as well as *RIVER*, which won Best First Feature Film at the 2016 Canadian Screen Awards. He also Executive Produced the documentary *LONG TIME RUNNING* which had a Gala Presentation at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival. While at Vice, he also Executive Produced the critically acclaimed *DARK SIDE OF THE RING*, the CBC original series *GOOD PEOPLE*, the Crave original feature *RAT PARK*, *WAR CONTINUED* for CGTN, and the upcoming OutTV/FUSE Networks original *CLOTHES MINDED*.

In addition to currently chairing The Bell Fund, Prasad served as a past board member for Hollywood Suite, CAFDE, and the Reelworld Film Festival. Prasad also makes time for various other industry advisory activities including sitting on both the CMF's Industry Roundtable and Ontario Creates' Screen Advisory Committee. He has also worked in ad hoc advisory capacities with The Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, Fin Partners' co-production market, and The Banff Media Festival. In 2015 he was invited to speak to the Canadian House of Commons' Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage to discuss the future of media and Canadian content.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PIERRE RODRIGUE | Bell

Pierre Rodrigue has worked in the broad sector of culture and communications for nearly 40 years and is recognized both for his experience as a manager and for his reputation as part of several professional and social networks. An attorney by training, he has run companies marketing cultural products and has also held a number of management positions in radio, television, digital media and telecommunications.

Since September 2015, he has been Bell Canada's primary representative to Francophone elected officials at the federal, provincial and municipal levels, as well as to chambers of commerce and leaders in the Quebec business community. A Certified Corporate Director (CCD), Pierre Rodrigue has sat on the board of directors of several charitable and cultural organizations. He is currently chairman of the board of Musicaction and Les Filles Électriques in addition to being a board member of Fondation 24 heures Tremblant [Tremblant's 24-hour race], La Fédération des chambres de commerce du Québec, Cinémania, Bell Fund and Maison St-Gabriel.

Lastly, he is a founding partner of The Orpailleur vineyard.



JOHANNE SAINT-LAURENT | Independent

Johanne has more than 25 years of experience in the broadcasting sector, and more specifically in television. She has had a successful career at Astral Media, where she held various senior management positions. Over the course of her career, she has overseen numerous departments, including Finance, Human Resources, Legal and Regulatory Affairs, Information Technology, Commercial Routing and Broadcast Technical Services. In 2002, she was promoted to Senior Vice-President, Commercial Affairs and General Manager, thus involving her more in the strategic development and operations in the Quebec television market for about ten specialty services. Johanne holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Finance) as well as a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Université de Sherbrooke. She has served on numerous boards of directors, including the Rendez-vous du cinéma du Québec, the Harold Greenberg Fund, the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, the Canadian Satellite Users Association and the Research Foundation from the Université de Sherbrooke. Johanne was also a founding member of Quebec Cinéma. She also sits on the Board of Directors of Accessible Media Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



NICOLAS POITRAS | Bell

As Vice President of Marketing Communications at Bell, Nicolas Poitras manages the promotional strategy for the company's mobility, internet, cable television, telephony and home security services. He leads a robust team of professionals in Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, and the Atlantic provinces.

Nicolas joined the Bell family in 1992. Over the years, he rose through the ranks and held various strategic positions. In 2011, he took charge of marketing communications for residential services nationwide, while also overseeing all residential services operations in Québec. In 2022, promotional strategy for wireless services was added to his responsibilities, and in 2023, marketing communications for Virgin Plus and Lucky Mobile.

Nicolas has spearheaded various large-scale projects, such as the launch of the Fibe brand across the country, the marketing of its fibre optic network, and the integration of various consumer brands acquired by the company. His advertising campaigns have received numerous awards from various institutions, including the Publicité Club de Montréal, Cannes Lions and the Advertising and Design Club of Canada.

Before joining Bell, Nicolas completed his bachelor's degree in public communications and political science from Université Laval, and kick-started his career in media.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



NANCY CHAPELLE
Executive Director
Toronto Office



SUZANNE LACEY
Deputy Director
Toronto Office



**PIERRE-ANAÏS
PARENT ST-GELAIS**
Deputy Director
Montreal Office



**RACHEL
FELDBLOOM-WOOD**
Senior Business
Analyst
Toronto Office



**ÉLIE MICHAUD
ALEXIS**
Coordinator and
Business Analyst
Montreal Office



ABIGAIL BORJA
Operations and
Communication
Coordinator
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CHARLES ZAMARIA
Financial Director
Toronto Office





FONDS
Bell
FUND

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Bell
FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

BELL FUND

December 31, 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Directors of the
Bell Fund

Opinion

We have audited financial statements of Bell Fund, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, and the statements of operations, statement of changes in net assets and cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Bell Fund as at December 31, 2023, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the organization in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the organization's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the organization or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the organization's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

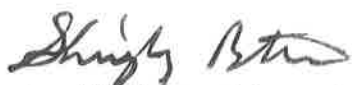
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the organization's ability to continue as going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organization to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Toronto, Ontario
March 22, 2024


Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

Bell Fund

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31	2023	2022
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
OPERATING FUND		
Cash	76,279	415,123
Term deposits, at fair value [note 7]	5,000,000	5,000,000
Investments, at fair value [note 7]	5,341,954	5,623,896
Accounts receivable [notes 4 and 7]	<u>2,140,715</u>	<u>2,194,148</u>
	12,558,948	13,233,167
RESTRICTED DEVELOPMENT FUND		
Investments, at fair value [note 7]	<u>10,749,009</u>	<u>10,000,000</u>
Total assets	23,307,957	23,233,167
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
OPERATING FUND		
Accrued liabilities	48,370	27,358
Fund balance [note 3]	<u>12,510,578</u>	<u>13,205,809</u>
	12,558,948	13,233,167
RESTRICTED DEVELOPMENT FUND		
Fund balance [note 3]	<u>10,749,009</u>	<u>10,000,000</u>
Total liabilities and fund balances	23,307,957	23,233,167

see accompanying notes

Approved by the Board:


Director


Director

Bell Fund
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Year ended December 31	2023	2022
	\$	\$
OPERATING FUND		
Revenue		
Contributions	12,457,490	13,479,994
Recovery of project grants	345,122	304,101
Investment income	<u>1,462,715</u>	<u>799,336</u>
	<u>14,265,327</u>	<u>14,583,431</u>
Expenses		
Administration	776,660	735,497
Restricted Fund Program expenses	272,881	245,169
Governance and other expenses	170,735	108,112
Investment management	<u>38,582</u>	<u>37,209</u>
	<u>1,258,858</u>	<u>1,125,987</u>
Income from operations before funding distributions	13,006,469	13,457,444
Funding distributions [note 6]	<u>13,701,700</u>	<u>16,105,513</u>
Earnings (loss) from operations for the year	<u>(695,231)</u>	<u>(2,648,069)</u>
Earnings (loss) and increase (decrease) of net assets for the year	<u>(695,231)</u>	<u>(2,648,069)</u>
RESTRICTED DEVELOPMENT FUND		
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	749,009	(2,592,580)
Increase (decrease) in net assets for the year	<u>749,009</u>	<u>(2,592,580)</u>
Total increase (decrease) in net assets for the year	<u>53,778</u>	<u>(5,240,649)</u>

see accompanying notes

Bell Fund
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended December 31	2023	2022
	\$	\$
OPERATING FUND		
Balance, beginning of year	13,205,809	16,446,458
Earnings (loss) and increase (decrease) in net assets for the year	(695,231)	(2,648,069)
Transfer (to) from Restricted Development Fund	-	(592,580)
Balance, end of year	12,510,578	13,205,809
RESTRICTED DEVELOPMENT FUND		
Balance, beginning of year	10,000,000	12,000,000
Increase (decrease) in net assets for the year	749,009	(2,592,580)
Transfer to Operating Fund	-	592,580
Balance, end of year	10,749,009	10,000,000

see accompanying notes

Bell Fund
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

Year ended December 31	2023	2022
	\$	\$
OPERATING FUND		
Operating Activities		
Cash received from contributions and investment income	14,251,117	13,140,756
Cash paid to suppliers	(1,238,897)	(1,194,392)
Cash paid for funding distributions	<u>(13,701,700)</u>	<u>(16,105,513)</u>
Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>(689,480)</u>	<u>(4,159,149)</u>
Investing Activities		
Proceeds on sale of investments	506,828	7,700,295
Purchase of investments	<u>(156,192)</u>	<u>(3,177,970)</u>
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>350,636</u>	<u>4,522,325</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash during the year	(338,844)	363,176
Cash, beginning of year	415,123	51,947
Cash, end of year	76,279	415,123

see accompanying notes

Bell Fund

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

1. NATURE OF ORGANIZATION

Bell Fund [the "Organization"] was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation under the Canada Business Corporations Act on September 2, 1997. In February 2014, the Organization changed its name from Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund to Bell Fund.

The Organization is dependent upon financial contributions from Bell TV and related companies and operates to encourage and increase the production of Canadian content for domestic broadcasting and other digital platforms.

In addition, an endowment was provided by BCE-CTV Benefits to encourage the development of screen based content and professional development activities.

The Organization is exempt from income taxes under Section 149(1) of the Income Tax Act (Canada).

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies.

Financial statement presentation

The financial statements have been prepared on a restricted fund basis. The fund balances are described as follows:

Operating Fund

All the operations of the Organization are included in the Operating Fund and include contributions from Bell TV and related companies, investment income, operating and administrative expenses, funding distributions and realized and unrealized investment gains and losses on investments held by the Operating Fund as well as any realized and unrealized investment gains or losses on investments held by the Restricted Development Fund as allocated by the Board.

Bell Fund

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Restricted Development Fund

The Restricted Development Fund represents the endowment received from BCE-CTV Benefits of \$10,000,000. The fund is restricted by the Board. Income earned on the Restricted Development Fund is the property of the Operating Fund and consequently, is included in the Operating Fund. Unrealized investment gains and losses on investments held by the Restricted Development Fund are included in this Fund or may be allocated to the Operating Fund by the Board at its discretion. As this fund does not have a cash balance, a statement of Cash Flows is not provided.

Special Projects Fund

The Special Projects Fund represents an appropriation by the Board from the Operating Fund. The Board accumulates these appropriations in the Special Projects Fund to be used to fund Board approved projects including research and other special projects to enhance the overall mandate and public awareness of the Organization. The Board limits the Fund Balance of the Special Projects Fund to \$750,000 at any time. Should the circumstances warrant it in any year, the Board may transfer any or all of the unused funds in the Special Projects Fund back to the Operations Fund.

Measurement Uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates include the ultimate realization of the fair value of the investments. Actual results could differ from the estimates.

Cash - Operating Fund

Cash is defined as cash in bank less outstanding cheques.

Investments - Operating Fund and Restricted Development Fund

Investment transactions are recorded on the settlement date and the investments are recorded at fair value. The investments are comprised of Canadian and foreign equity pooled funds and fixed income securities including pooled funds, treasury bills, bonds, debentures and notes.

Valuation

The fair value of investments as at the financial reporting period end is determined as follows:

- a) Securities listed upon a recognized public stock exchange are valued at their bid prices for investments owned.

Bell Fund

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

- b) Short-term notes, treasury bills and bonds are valued at the average bid quotations from recognized investment dealers.

Transaction costs

Transaction costs are incremental costs other than portfolio fees that are directly attributable to the acquisition, issue or disposal of an investment, which include fees and commission paid to agents, advisors, brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and securities exchanges, and transfer taxes and duties. The Organization does not incur such transaction costs.

In the Statement of Cash Flows for the Operating Fund, the proceeds on sale of investments and the purchase of investments have been shown net of short-term investment transactions consisting of bank term-deposits, Canadian treasury bills and Government of Canada bonds with maturities under 365 days.

Revenue recognition- Operating Fund and Restricted Development Fund

The Organization uses accrual accounting whereby interest revenue is recognized as earned, dividend revenue is recognized as received, contribution revenue from Bell TV and related companies is recognized based on the monthly commitments, and realized gains and losses on investment transactions are recognized on the settlement date.

Realized and unrealized gains and losses from investment transactions are calculated on an average cost basis.

Funding distributions- Operating Fund

The financing agreements entered into by the Organization with independent production companies and professional development organizations contain specific milestones that must be achieved by the companies and organizations in order for them to be entitled to funds. The Organization recognizes, as funding distribution expense in the Statement of Operations, its obligations under those agreements when the specific milestones have been achieved. Funding commitments for projects with unachieved milestones are reflected in the commitments note to the financial statements.

Capital Assets

The Organization expenses all capital assets that are immaterial in cost. Such capital assets would generally be office furniture and equipment and computer equipment of a replacement nature for existing capital assets. If, in any year, capital assets additions exceed the above noted limit, they would be capitalized and amortized over their estimated useful life of three to five years on a straight line basis.

Bell Fund

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

3. OBJECTIVES, POLICIES AND PROCESSES FOR MANAGING CAPITAL

The Organization's capital is comprised of the net assets invested in unrestricted funds represented by both the Operating Fund and the Special Projects Fund as well as the externally restricted funds represented by the Restricted Development Fund.

The Organization invests the unrestricted funds to ensure that the organization has administrative facilities suitable for management to administer its various programs on an annual basis while maintaining the investments in the Restricted Development Fund as required by the external restriction.

Management prepares budgets which are reviewed, approved and monitored by the Board of Directors. Investments are made based upon the estimated timing of funding requirements and material investment decisions are approved by the Board of Directors.

4. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

The accounts receivable consist primarily of amounts due from Bell TV and accrued interest income on investments.

5. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

In addition to the contributions from Bell TV and the accounts receivable from this company that is separately disclosed in the financial statements, the Organization paid an honorarium and professional fees of \$19,775 (2022 - \$15,255) to the Chairman of the Board and honoraria of \$41,910 (2022 - \$39,059) to Directors other than the Directors who are employees, officers or directors of Bell Canada, BCE and their related companies. The transactions are recorded at the exchange amount.

Bell Fund

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

6. COMMITMENTS

During 2023, the Organization authorized funding for ongoing projects and development activities that were not completed. As a result, at year-end, there existed commitments to pay certain amounts as follows:

	Commitment Outstanding*	Paid	Outstanding at year-end
	\$	\$	\$
Funding authorized in 2023			
Industry Development Grants	300,000	(197,100)	102,900
Short Form Non-Fiction Grants	942,500	(319,000)	623,500
Short Form Fiction Grants	3,086,000	(894,000)	2,192,000
Slate Grants	2,259,000	(1,827,290)	431,710
Television-Envelope Grants	4,240,000	(1,607,500)	2,632,500
Television-Selective Grants	<u>2,050,000</u>	<u>(1,280,000)</u>	<u>770,000</u>
	12,877,500	(6,124,890)	6,752,610
Funding authorized in 2022 not yet paid	6,739,175	(4,540,875)	2,198,300
Funding authorized in 2021 not yet paid	2,929,285	(1,960,985)	968,300
Funding authorized in 2020 not yet paid	1,175,220	(842,450)	332,770
Funding authorized in 2019 not yet paid	356,720	(180,000)	176,720
Funding authorized in 2018 not yet paid	81,207	(52,500)	28,707
	<u>24,159,107</u>	<u>(13,701,700)</u>	<u>10,457,407</u>

*Commitment Outstanding represents outstanding commitments carried-forward from the previous year, and any adjustments to project commitments made in the current year.

The Organization has operating lease commitments for office facilities and equipment with annual lease payments in each of the following years of approximately:

	\$
2024	44,708
Thereafter	15,014
	<u>59,722</u>

Bell Fund

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

a) Risk exposure and management

The Organization's investment activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, as defined in section 3856 of the CPA Canada Handbook. The Organization's exposure to financial risks is concentrated primarily in its investment portfolio and the significant relevant risks are discussed below.

b) Concentration of investment risk for investment portfolio

Concentration risk arises when the Organization invests in a limited number of individual securities or in securities within a limited number of industry sectors.

At year-end, the Organization's portfolio of investments aggregating \$16,090,963 (2022 - \$15,623,896), being the Operating Fund of \$6,090,963 (2022 - \$5,623,896) plus the Restricted Development Fund of \$10,000,000 (2022 - \$10,000,000), includes a number of individual investments and industry sectors within the broad classification of equities, fixed income bonds and debentures and pooled funds. The Board of Directors of the Organization seeks to minimize the potential adverse effects of these risks by engaging an independent professional investment manager to manage the portfolio, diversifying the investment portfolio and by providing the investment manager with specific investment guidelines against which the performance of the portfolio is monitored. The Organization's portfolio of investments are held for safekeeping by an independent trust company which provides the Organization with a monthly report, based on the settlement date, of investment transactions by the investment manager.

In addition, the Organization invests in term deposits with a Canadian financial institution which amounted to \$5,000,000 at year-end (2022 - \$5,000,000).

The Organization is satisfied that there is no significant exposure from loss on the realization of its investment portfolio due to concentration of the investments either in a limited number of individual investments or in a particular industry sector.

c) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation or commitment that it has entered into with the Organization including the trading of securities and the collection of receivables.

All investment transactions are in securities listed on a recognised Canadian stock exchange and are executed with an approved broker. To minimize the possibility of settlement default, securities are exchanged for payment simultaneously through the facilities of a central depository and/or clearing agency.

Bell Fund

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

The Organization is satisfied that there is no significant exposure to losses from credit risk for the investment portfolio.

Other financial assets include the receivables, which represent accrued interest on bonds held in the investment portfolio and contributions due from Bell TV, and term deposits with a Canadian financial institution, and accordingly, the Organization does not have significant exposure from the collection of the receivables.

d) Currency risk

Currency risk arises when the fair value of financial instruments denominated in a currency other than the Canadian dollar, which is the Organization's reporting currency, fluctuate due to changes in exchange rates.

At year-end, the Organization's portfolio of investments does not include direct holdings of investments denominated in foreign currencies. The organization does hold investments in certain pooled funds which are denominated in Canadian currency, and if any of these funds contain underlying investments denominated in foreign currencies, these are converted to their Canadian dollar equivalent.

The Organization is satisfied that there is no significant exposure to losses from currency risk for the investment portfolio.

e) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises when the fair value of interest-bearing financial instruments fluctuates due to changes in the prevailing levels of market interest rates. Cash, short-term deposits, accounts receivable and accrued liabilities do not expose the Organization to significant amounts of interest rate risk.

Fixed rate Canadian income funds represent 50% (2022 - 30%) of the portfolio of investments and are primarily invested in one large fund sponsored by a Canadian financial institution.

The underlying investments of Canadian financial institution sponsored fund, which is within the fixed rate Canadian income funds, are a number of bonds and debentures issued by various government and corporate entities and are for different maturity dates.

The Organization is satisfied there is no significant exposure to losses from interest rate fluctuations.

Bell Fund

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

December 31, 2023

7. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

f) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises when the Organization encounters difficulty in meeting its financial obligations as they come due.

At the end of the year, the Organization's portfolio of investments includes 2% (2022 - 2%) of Canadian short term interest bearing securities plus the term deposits shown as a separate line item on the Statement of Financial Position.

The Organization is satisfied that there is no significant exposure from liquidity risk.

g) Other price risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency risk, interest rate risk and other price risk (the first two of which have been discussed in 7d and 8e above).

Other price risk is the risk that the value of financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices whether caused by factors specific to an individual investment, its issuers, or other factors affecting all instruments traded in a market or market segment. All investments present a risk of loss of capital. This risk is managed through the careful selection of investments and other financial instruments within the parameters of the Organization's investment strategy and is monitored as set out in 7b above. The Organization does not invest in options, futures or other derivative contracts. The Organization's most significant exposure to price risk arises from its investments in equity securities which at year-end represented 48% (2022 - 58%) of the investment portfolio.

As set out in 7b above, the Organization employs a professional investment manager and reviews the performance of the manager against specific investment criteria. The investment portfolio is represented by securities traded on a recognized stock exchange and, by its the long-term nature and diversity, does not include any material dollar amount of securities with significant terms or conditions that would materially affect the amount, timing or certainty of future cash flows.