

Annual Report | 2020

Powerful  
Questions.  
Big Impact.



 **ROGERS**<sup>TM</sup>  
Group of Funds

Questions have  
tremendous power.  
They reveal truths,  
challenge the status quo  
and open our eyes to  
new possibilities.

In 2020, the global pandemic and the murder of George Floyd forced us to ask profound questions. How do we respond when the world is turned upside down? What does it mean to be in this together? Can we emerge from these crises better, stronger and more inclusive?

In this period of transformative change, the road ahead holds many uncertainties. But there are a few things we can count on.

For starters, telling stories is important – now more than ever. They give us a reprieve from daily pressures. They help us see issues in new ways. And they offer the inspiration we need to keep moving forward.

Secondly, big questions create big impact. The productions featured in this year's report are perfect examples. In 2020, we invested \$26.1 million in 88 productions that reveal

much about race, identity, gender, environmental stewardship and justice.

Another absolute is that representation matters. By fully reflecting the diversity of this country, Canada's television and film industry gives audiences from every community a richer viewing experience. That's why the Rogers Group of Funds is committed to supporting BIPOC initiatives throughout the sector.

Finally, this is an industry that rises to challenges. In the 40 years since we launched the first Rogers fund, we've seen big upheavals nationally and globally. And while 2020 was the biggest, we've already witnessed how Canada's producers are using ingenuity to adapt and evolve.

As they do, the Rogers Group of Funds will be there to support them. No question.

In 2020, the Rogers Group of Funds invested over \$26 million in 88 productions.



**Robin C. Mirsky**, Executive Director  
Rogers Group of Funds

**Philip B. Lind**, Vice Chairman  
Rogers Communications

Whose version  
of truth shapes  
history?







In the 1800s, Cowichan First Nation Chief Tzouhalem subdued his rivals and stood up to European colonizers. Today, his story is part myth, part history. Where do the facts end, where does the legend begin, and whose perspective – Indigenous or settler – informs our modern understanding of him?

**Tzouhalem** uses interviews, re-enactments and archival images to uncover greater truths about one of the most powerful First Nations leaders in the Pacific Northwest and his impact on modern Indigenous-settler relationships.

On the opposite side of the country, **Laissez-nous raconter** shares the stories of the First Peoples in the area now known as Labrador and Quebec. In the process, it rescues oral histories and traditions from centuries of forced assimilation.

The narratives passed down by one generation help forge the identity, values and world views of the next. By bringing those stories to television for the first time – told by First Peoples in their own voice – this miniseries celebrates the resistance, resilience and renaissance of the original inhabitants of this land.

**Left:** Tzouhalem

**Below:** Laissez-nous raconter





**What** determines  
an athlete's gender  
– and who gets to  
decide?



For some runners, the biggest challenge isn't the competitors in the lanes beside them. It's the International Amateur Athletics Federation: a governing body that tells some women they must reduce their naturally high testosterone levels in order to compete.

**Category: Woman** examines what's fair and what's discrimination in the quest to achieve a level playing field. Who makes the rules? Who suffers the consequences? This is a documentary about racism, gender, human rights and the courage to fight back.

**Dawn, Her Dad & the Tractor** approaches gender and acceptance from a different angle. When estranged son Don returns to the family farm as Dawn following her mother's death, it marks the start of a difficult journey for her family and the small Nova Scotia community where she grew up.

This first feature film from director Shelley Thompson compassionately explores the complex dynamics of loss, love, change and joy when a young trans woman inspires those around her to question their attitudes.



Photo: Dan Callis

## How do you move from acceptance to pride?

Left: Category: Woman

Right: Dawn, Her Dad & the Tractor





## How can we honour tradition and adapt to the future?

Inuit carvings and drawings are celebrated around the world, but the artists behind those works often go unrecognized. **Carved in Stone: Sanannguaqtit** puts the spotlight on the creators.

The traditional Inuit way of life has undergone a massive transformation over the past century. Through profiles of five Inuit artists from different generations and backgrounds, this documentary looks at the joys and challenges of their chosen careers. It investigates how experience shapes their work, how their work reflects an evolving culture, and how art has the power to transform both the creator and the viewer.

**Borrowed From Nature** focuses on a different art form, exploring three gardens

Above: Borrowed From Nature



# What does art reveal – and what does it hide?



created or influenced by master Japanese-Canadian designer Roy Tomomichi Sumi. But this documentary is about much more than the beauty created by skillfully merging Japanese aesthetics with Canadian landscapes.

It also examines the internment of Japanese Canadians and the legacy it has left. It meditates on how to adapt to the inevitable changes that come with time and immigration: what you hold on to, what you let go of and how you honour tradition while avoiding intercultural tensions. And by looking at how rocks shaped Sumi's gardens, it provides a powerful metaphor for how to build our lives around the things we cannot change.



Photo of George Arlook, top: Leif Norman • Photo of Joe Ashoona, bottom: Ivan Hughes

Above two photos: Carved in Stone

When a conflict continues for generations, it's hard to envision anything else. And when occupying forces kill three of your daughters in a missile attack, it seems impossible to speak about forgiveness. But that's what Izzeldin Abuelaish did.

**I Shall Not Hate** tells the extraordinary story of the Palestinian-born doctor who overcame personal grief and historical hatred to promote peace in the Middle East – and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times as a result.

The promise of a brighter future also drives Afghan women who have chosen to sing despite disapproval and even death threats.

Under the Taliban regime, most music was banned and women were denied basic rights. Now, as the elected Afghan government negotiates a tentative peace deal with the Taliban, can women have a voice in their country's future?

**Songs She Sings in Shadows** looks at that question through the eyes of three courageous performers as they take part in the country's most popular TV singing competition and dream of a concert to mark Afghanistan's hundredth year of independence.

**Left:** I Shall Not Hate

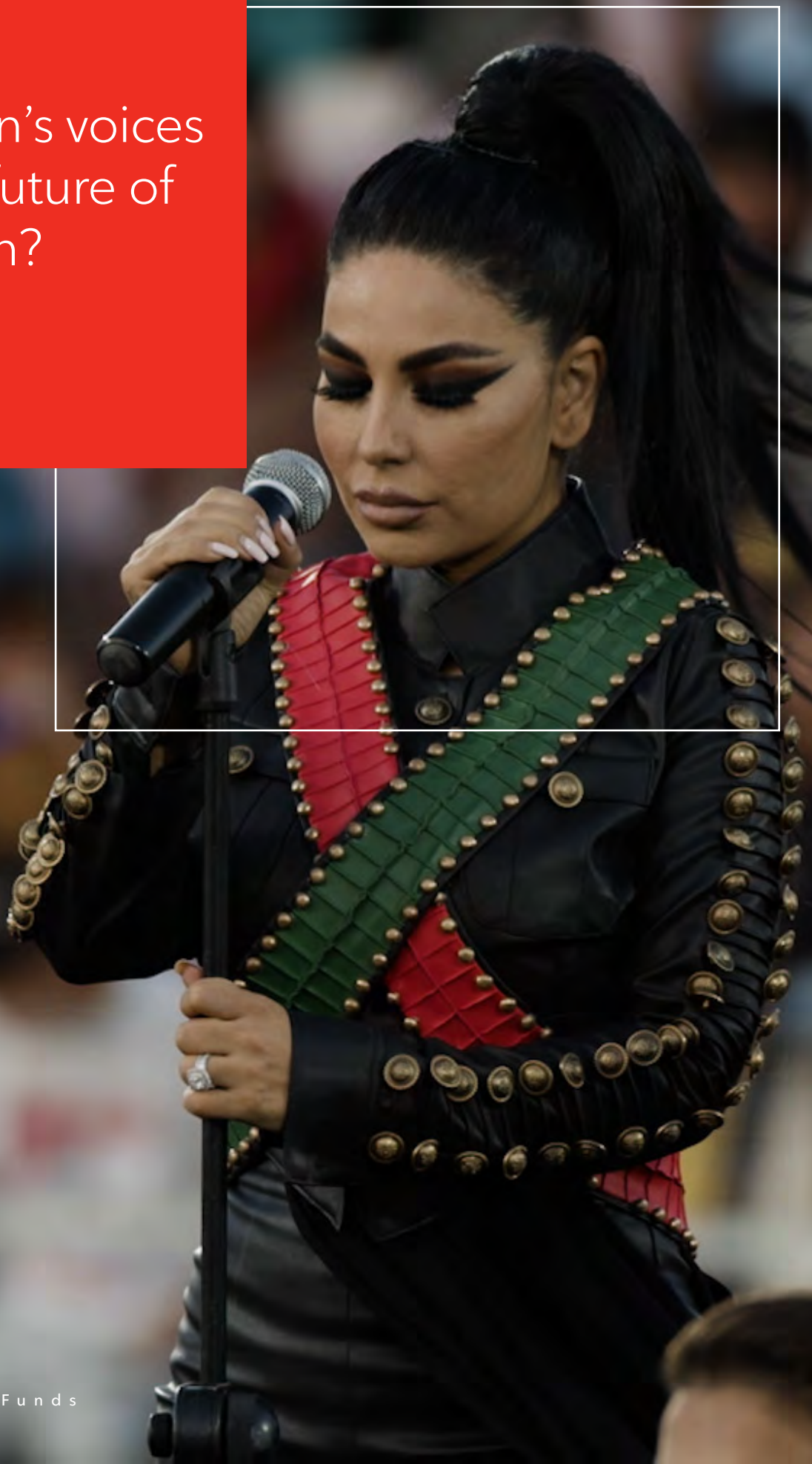
**Right:** Songs She Sings in Shadows



# How do you forge peace from generations of hatred?



Can women's voices  
shape the future of  
Afghanistan?



**What** does it take  
to ignite global  
climate action?







What started as a Swedish schoolgirl's lonely vigil grew into worldwide student walkouts, protests that saw millions of people take to the streets, and declarations of climate emergencies from big cities and small towns alike.

Scientists have been warning us about climate change for decades. So how did the actions of activists like Greta Thunberg launch a global movement? **Rebellion** takes us to the front lines of today's environmental movement, tracing a confluence of events that sparked a revolution now playing out in courts, boardrooms, newsrooms and parliaments around the world. But will it be enough to save a planet in crisis?

Meanwhile, **L'océan vu du cœur** gives us a glimpse of what's at stake. In this follow-up to **La terre vue du cœur**, Canadian astrophysicist Hubert Reeves invites viewers to discover the marvels of our oceans and witness the destruction that human activities have created beneath the waves. World-renowned scientists join the conversation, highlighting the devastation but also the incredible resilience our seas can demonstrate – if only we give them the chance to recover.

Left and above: Rebellion

Rogers Group of Funds

# Can we afford to ignore the crisis in our oceans?



# \$628 Million

Over the past **40 years**, the Rogers Group of Funds has provided 628 million dollars in financing to support great Canadian television and film.

## Certified Independent Production Funds (CIPF) in 2020

In 2020, we helped this country's independent producers continue doing what they do best – even in the midst of a global pandemic – by investing \$8,925,500 through our Cable Network Fund, Documentary Fund and Theatrical Documentary Program.

Together, those contributions supported a total of 69 productions and 175 hours of new programming sure to leave audiences entertained, inspired and engrossed.

	Financing	# of projects	# of programming hours
Cable Network Fund	\$4,645,000	18	111
Documentary Fund	\$4,053,000	48	59
Theatrical Documentary Program	\$227,500	3	5
<b>Total CIPF</b>	<b>\$8,925,500</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>175</b>



Each year, the Rogers Cable Network Fund enables independent producers to create programming that ranges from thought-provoking to nail-biting to laugh-out-loud funny. In 2020, we helped them add 111 hours of must-watch television to the dial, bringing 18 productions to life with \$4,645,000 in financing.



**Anyone's Game** CC/DV

Best Crosses Studios Inc.

*Peter Sussman, Jack Sussman, Terence Richards, Chris Koras, Kyle McCutcheon, Vince Buda, Quinn McCutcheon*

Tucked away among the farmers' fields in rural Canada lies Orangeville Prep, one of the best high school basketball programs in North America that no one's ever heard of.

**ONTARIO**

CBC, Documentary Channel



**Battle of the Alphas** CC/DV

Yap Films Inc.

*Elliott Halpern, Elizabeth Trojan, Karen McCairley*

The *Battle of the Alphas* happens every day: babies compete for their mother's milk, adolescents play-fight, and adults become aggressive as they search for a mate. From friendly competition to territorial battles, Yap Films examines the science behind animal competition.

**ONTARIO**

Love Nature Canada



**The Con: The Secret American War** CC/DV

White Pine Pictures Inc.

*Peter Raymont, Andrew Munger, Christian Beetz*

What's a little deceit between friends when the fate of the world is at stake? Roosevelt and Churchill conspire to neutralize Nazi sympathizers, saboteurs and spies, twist public opinion, arm Britain, and pull America into the war against Hitler.

**ONTARIO**

Super Channel, ARTE

**\$4.6**

Million

**18**

Projects

**111**

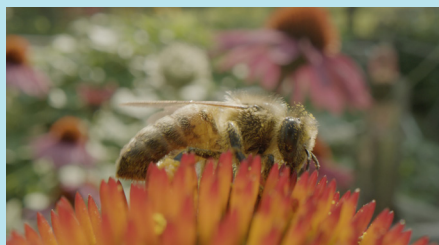
Programming  
Hours



## Who controls your story after you're gone?

When Billy Tipton died in 1989, tabloids revealed the American jazz musician was actually a woman, with lurid tales of how Billy deceived his bandmates, wives and adoptive children.

**No Ordinary Man** replaces that narrative with the story of a transgender icon who hid in plain sight, living life as his authentic self.



### Disappearing Insects CC/DV

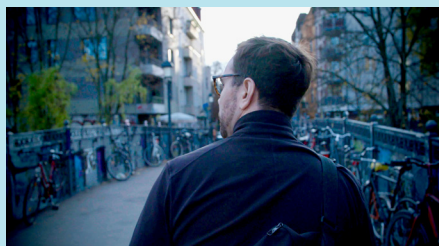
Disappearing Insects Productions Inc.

*Daniel Iron, GERALYN Dreyfous, Nicholas de Pencier, Jennifer Baichwal*

From the award-winning team behind *Manufactured Landscapes*, *Watermark* and *Anthropocene* comes this new documentary – an investigation into the future of agriculture in a world where pollinators and other essential insects are declining dramatically.

ONTARIO

Documentary Channel



### Hackstar in Exile CC/DV

Cave 7 Productions Inc.

*Jamie Kastner, Laura Baron Kastner*

A portrait of codename “WLA-3” whose extraordinary young life seems inescapably entwined with major historical currents: first WikiLeaks and then #metoo. Activist or criminal? What does his tale reveal about today's world?

ONTARIO

Documentary Channel



Photo: k.north, photography

### Haunted Hospitals, Season 3 CC/DV

Haunted Hospitals Productions 3 Inc.

*Marlo Miazga, Corinna Lehr, Sean Connolly, Robin Bicknell, Kate Kung, Bruno Dube*

Chilling tales of otherworldly activity inside hospitals, medical institutions and morgues are told first-hand through interviews with the doctors, nurses, hospital staff and patients who lived through these horrifying encounters.

ONTARIO

Blue Ant Media T+E, Discovery Network TRVL Channel, Bell Media Canal D



### Hudson & Rex, Season 3 CC/DV

Shaftesbury Rex III Inc. and Pope Rex Season 3 Inc.

*Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, Paul Pope, Cal Coons, Derek Schreyer*

Returning for their third season, detective Charlie Hudson and German shepherd Rex are back on the trail of St. John's criminals, from a murder below the Atlantic Ocean to a mummified body found in the tundra.

ONTARIO / NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Rogers Media Inc.



### Hudson & Rex, Season 4 CC/DV

Shaftesbury Rex IV Inc. and Pope Rex Season 4 Inc

*Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, Paul Pope*

This action-packed procedural drama focuses on the partnership between detective Charlie Hudson and his canine partner Rex. Even the most puzzling case is no match for the dynamic duo, thanks to Charlie's deft detective work and Rex's keen canine senses.

ONTARIO / NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR

Rogers Media Inc.



### I Shall Not Hate CC/DV

11746685 Canada Inc.

*Maryse Rouillard, Paul Cadieux, Tal Barda*

Surrounded by violence and oppression, Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish chose education and tolerance. When the war claimed his daughters, he responded with forgiveness, but peace must be a two-way street.

QUEBEC

Documentary Channel





## In Their Own Words CC/DV

Prospero Pictures and Dalaklis Media Enterprises Inc.

*Martin Katz, Karen Wookey, Chuck Dalaklis*

*In Their Own Words* is a six-part documentary series that explores the lives of key figures in modern history, detailing the lasting legacy of their life's work and how it has affected change and progress in the world.

ONTARIO

Documentary Channel, PBS



## Jade Fever, Season 7 CC/DV

Jade 7 Productions Ltd.

*Gabriela Schonback, Michael Chechik, David Gullason, Giuliana Bertuzzi, Cheryl Binning*

*Jade Fever* follows the adventures of an eclectic family of Northern B.C. jade miners. Headed by their mine boss and mom, they live in an off-the-grid community where their mining operations employ most of the town.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Discovery Canada



Director: Stephanie Weimar

## Naked CC/DV

Primitive Entertainment

*Michael McMahon, Kay Siering, Felicity Justrabo, Kevin McMahon*

*Naked* raises big questions about how our biological sex and assigned gender affect us. Seeking answers in lived realities and current research, it explores our relationships with gender and the way they permeate every aspect of human life.

ONTARIO

Crave



## No Ordinary Man CC/DV

Parabola Productions

*Sarah Spring*

*No Ordinary Man* is an in-depth look at musician and trans culture icon Billy Tipton. This groundbreaking film shows what is possible when a community collaborates to honour the legacy of an unlikely hero.

QUEBEC

TVO, Documentary Channel



## Second Jen, Season 3 CC/DV

Second Jen III 2019 Inc.

*Don Ferguson, Lucy Stewart, Kevin Wallis, Carly Heffernan, Amanda Joy, Samantha Wan*

Best friends Jen and Mo tackle life's ups and downs in Toronto. Whether it's yellow fever, internet trolls, family therapy or workplace inequality, our heroines fight life's dumpster fires together.

ONTARIO

OMNI



## Slasher: Flesh & Blood, Season 4 CC/DV

Shaftesbury Slasher IV Inc.

*Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, Aaron Martin, Erin Berry, Ian Carpenter*

*Slasher: Flesh & Blood* follows a wealthy, dysfunctional family gathering for a reunion on a secluded island. Old wounds and competitive rivalries flare up when the family realizes a masked killer is intent on picking them off one by one.

ONTARIO

Hollywood Suite



## Songs She Sings in Shadows

CC/DV

Songs She Sings in Shadows Inc.

*Amy Green, Chantal Kreviazuk, Dave Hudacok, Lesley Johnson, Fazila Amiri*

Amidst the U.S.-Taliban peace negotiations, two young female Afghan singers compete on the popular television show *Afghan Star*, under the mentorship of controversial pop star Aryana Sayeed, despite threats from their families and conservatives.

ONTARIO

Super Channel



## Spirit Talker, Season 2 CC/DV

Spirit Talker Films 2 Inc.

*Edward Peill, Gharrett Paon*

This documentary series follows Mi'kmaq medium Shawn Leonard as he travels coast to coast, using his psychic abilities to connect the living with the dead and bring hope, healing and closure to Indigenous communities.

NOVA SCOTIA

APTN



## Tribal, Season 2 CC/DV

Tribal Cycle II Ltd.

*Ron E. Scott, Janet Hamley, Scott Lepp*

Season 2 of this critically acclaimed First Nations crime drama features new stories ripped from real-life headlines, including missing and murdered Indigenous people, police corruption and the effects of PTSD.

ALBERTA

APTN

When Canada's documentarians dive into real-world issues and events, the results are powerful. In 2020, the Rogers Documentary Fund invested more than \$4,053,000 in 48 productions that ask provocative questions, create new insights and help us see the world through different eyes.



### The Alternative Guide to Saving the Planet CC/DV

Infield Fly Productions

Dugald Maudsley, Gillian Main

Beyond recycling bottles and running around screaming, how can you help stop climate change? David Suzuki unveils his top ten – the surprisingly effective things we can do to put the Earth back on track, and the science behind them.

**ONTARIO**  
CBC



Photo: Katlynn Davidson

### Anne Murray: Full Circle CC/DV

Network Entertainment Inc.

Derik Murray, Dave Harris, Jeffrey Remedios, Bruce Allen, Lynn Fuhr, John Barbisan, Louise Valgardson

*Anne Murray: Full Circle* explores the extraordinary life of the Maritime girl who, on the path to becoming a Canadian icon and international superstar, shattered the glass ceiling for today's most adored female voices to follow in her footsteps.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
CBC, Documentary Channel



Centre: Director Francine Pelletier • Photos left & right by Vivien Gaumand

### La bataille pour l'âme du Québec CC/DV

Périphéria

Yanick Létourneau, Pierre Villepelet

*The Battle for Quebec's Soul* questions and explores identity politics in Quebec, from the inclusive and cosmopolitan "nationalism" of the sixties to the inward-looking nationalism, suspicious of elites and immigrants, in the new millennium.

**QUEBEC**  
RDI

**\$4.1**

Million

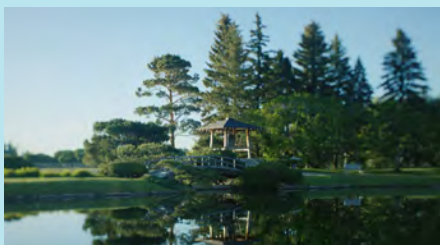
**48**

Projects

**59**

Programming  
Hours





## Borrowed From Nature CC/DV

Kino Sum Productions Inc.

*Sheila Peacock, Nicola Waugh, Gillian McKercher*

*Borrowed From Nature* explores the history of Japanese gardens in western Canada. The gardens we visit reveal the principles of famed Japanese-Canadian designer Roy Tomomichi Sumi, offering a testament to an enduring Japanese influence in our country.

**ALBERTA**  
CBC



## Boyle's War CC/DV

Hootalinqua Motion Pictures Inc.

*Trevor Birney, Max Fraser, Paul Cadieux, Michael Fanning*

A journey into the past, through the eyes of a youthful Northern Irish descendant and a bush-wise Yukon Canadian Ranger, *Boyle's War* follows the amazing exploits of 'Klondike' Joe Boyle across revolutionary Russia and WWI-torn Romania.

**YUKON**  
Super Channel, NorthwTel TV



Photo: Matt Barnes

## Buffy Sainte-Marie: Power in the Blood CC/DV

White Pine Pictures Inc.

*Peter Raymont, Andrew Munger, Shane Belcourt, Michelle St. John, Andrea Warner*

For nearly 60 years Buffy Sainte-Marie has been electrifying audiences and calling out injustice. Her songs are legendary, her activism inspiring. *Power in the Blood* is an exclusive documentary collaboration with one of the most influential artists of our time.

**ONTARIO**  
Bell Media



## Carbon: An Unauthorised Biography CC/DV

Graphene Productions Inc.

*Niobe Thompson, Sonya Pemberton, Lucy Maclaren*

This documentary tells the story of carbon, the most talked about but least understood element on Earth. Using live action and animation, it explores vital issues of our time – energy, climate and survival.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
CBC



Photo: Ivan Hughes

## Carved in Stone: Sanannguaqtit CC/DV

Fringe Filmworks Inc.

*Angela Heck, Ivan Hughes*

This documentary explores the legacy and future of Inuit art and takes a look inside the lives of five renowned Manitoba-based artists.

**MANITOBA**  
CBC Gem, CBC, Bell MTS Fibe TV



## Category: Woman CC/DV

Proximity Films WOM Inc.

*Howard Fraiberg, Phyllis Ellis*

*Category: Woman* profiles champion female track athletes whose achievements were over-shadowed by critics who questioned their gender: a story of human rights, homophobia and the courage to change the world of sport.

**ONTARIO**  
TVO



## Catwalk 2: Bobby's Revenge CC/DV

Bobby MSF Inc.

*Judy Holm, Michael McNamara, Aaron Hancox*

The follow-up to the smash hit *Catwalk: Tales from the Cat Show Circuit*, which followed a competitive season in the lives of two top cat owners and their prize-winning felines.

**ONTARIO**  
CBC, Documentary Channel



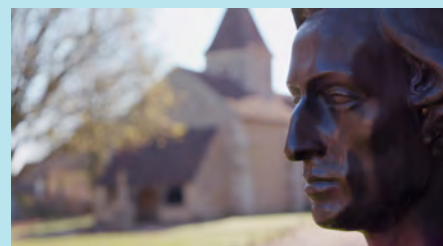
## Children of the Church CC/DV

Screen Siren Pictures Inc. (Canada) and Wildfire Film & Television Productions Ltd. (Ireland)

*Christine Haebler, Trish Dolman, Martha O'Neill, Adrian McCarthy*

Celibacy, fatherhood, love, lies, and betrayal. These are the true stories of the legion of invisible sons and daughters of Catholic priests – a heart-breaking world revealed by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Mike Rezendes.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
CBC



## Chip Chip CC/DV

Films Du Rapide Blanc Inc.

*Sylvie Van Brabant, Amelie Lambert Bouchard, Richard Desjardins*

Songwriter Richard Desjardins examines the life of Frédéric Chopin – often considered the greatest pianist-composer of all time – through the social, political and economic events of his era.

**QUEBEC**  
SRC, RDI ARTV



Photo: Carl Court, Getty Images

## The Covid Cruise CC/DV

Blue Pearl Productions Ltd.

Michael Downie, David Wells, Diana Warmé

3711 passengers on board. A 14-day quarantine. One deadly infectious disease. *The Covid Cruise* is the story of how a luxury cruise ship was swept up in the drama of the unfolding coronavirus pandemic.

ONTARIO  
CBC



Photo: Momme Halbe

## Creatures of Convenience

CC/DV

Wildhood Films Inc.

Sheila Peacock, Momme Halbe, Stuart Gillies

This solutions-focused film explores the challenges our convenience culture is placing on our environment and gives doable actions anyone can adopt to curb our waste in our daily lives.

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
CBC



Photo: Chris Gall

## Crush CC/DV

Red Queen Crush Inc.

Maya Gallus, Howard Fraiberg

*Crush* is a cinematic portrait of a year in the life of artisanal winemakers, following, with intimate access, the challenges and potential heartbreaks of what it takes to produce an exceptional bottle of wine.

ONTARIO  
TVO



## Dans l'ombre du Star Wars kid CC/DV

URBANIA TV 3105 Inc and the National Film Board of Canada

Jacinthe Carignan, Annie Bourdeau, Pierre-Mathieu Fortin, Philippe Lamarre, Raphaëlle Huysmans, Nathalie Cloutier

In 2002, a teenager films himself imitating a *Star Wars* character. Ghyslain Raza revisits an event that for some is the world's first viral phenomenon and for others, the first case of cyberbullying.

QUEBEC  
Télé-Québec



## Dear Audrey CC/DV

Cineflix (Dear Audrey) Inc.

Glen Salzman, Katherine Buck, Annette Clark, Jeremiah Hayes, Pablo Salzman

A riveting story of love, loss, and devotion, this feature documentary follows filmmaker and activist Martin Duckworth as his wife struggles with stage six Alzheimer's and the family faces some of the hardest days of their lives.

QUEBEC  
Super Channel



## Everest Dark CC/DV

Merit Motion Pictures Inc.

Merit Jensen Carr, Ina Fichman, Jerome Watt, Michael Bodnarchuk, Alexa Rosentreter, Lisa Cichelly

Mount Everest has become a graveyard. To appease the gods, famed Nepalese mountaineer and national hero Mingma Tseri Sherpa risks everything to recover dead bodies off his beloved mountain.

MANITOBA  
Documentary Channel



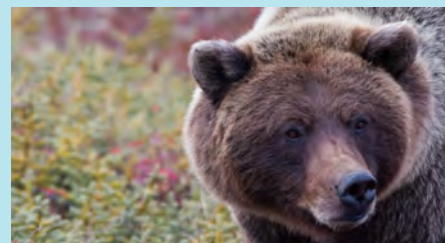
## Explore: An Underground Journey CC/DV

Peg Leg Films Inc.

Jenny Rustemeyer

Two gritty teams of hobbyist cavers are poised to investigate what could be the longest and deepest caves in Canada, located in a remote mountain plateau north of Fernie.

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Knowledge Network



## Facing Grizzlies CC/DV

FTF Productions Ltd.

Michael Chechik, Gabriela Schonbach, Brian Hamilton

*Facing Grizzlies* follows wildlife cinematographer Phil Timpany's extraordinary 40-year journey into the world of grizzly bears in northwestern Canada and challenges us to foster a new kind of relationship with the natural world.

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Knowledge Network



## Femmes des bois CC/DV

Productions Triangle Inc.

Pauline Voisard

*Femmes des bois* offers a foray into the male-dominated world of tree-planting camps. It is through the eyes of women who have chosen to work there that we will discover these micro-societies that are formed over the silvicultural seasons.

QUEBEC  
Unis TV





Photo: L. Rietveld

## La forêt et la famille CC/DV

Catbird Productions 2, Inc.

Katarina Soukup

A Belgian couple sacrificed family, friends and homeland for a self-sufficient life in Quebec's boreal forest. Fifteen years later, as their three boys become young men, what will happen to this remarkable life they've given everything to create?

QUEBEC

TV5 / Unis TV



## La grande illusion CC/DV

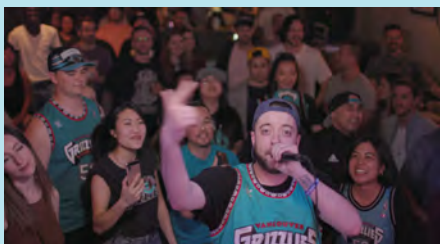
6842887 Canada inc.

Jean-Simon Chartier

With over 20 million dollars amassed from private investors, a Canadian couple moves to Hollywood to produce an ambitious film trilogy. Years later, the films are nowhere to be found and numerous victims denounce an international scam.

QUEBEC

TVA



## The Grizzly Truth CC/DV

Grizz Films Inc.

Scott Moore, Vinay Virmani, Kathleen Jayme, Michael Grand, James Brown, Joella Cabalu

*The Grizzly Truth* follows superfan Kat Jayme's search for truth and redemption for her hometown NBA team, the Vancouver Grizzlies, who vanished under suspicious circumstances.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Bell Media



## Harold Ballard: Power Player CC/DV

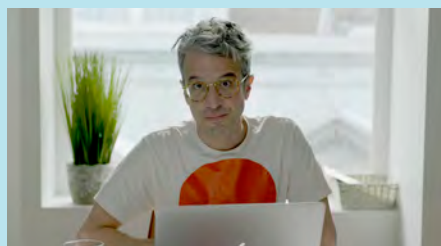
Lone Eagle Entertainment Ltd.

Michael Geddes, Chuck Tatham, Jason Priestley, Rachel Horvath

Money, headlines and enemies: Harold Ballard made them all. He was Canada's most famous operator, a media-hungry millionaire who gained control of the once-mighty Toronto Maple Leafs – and operated them into the ground.

ONTARIO

CBC, Documentary Channel



## IA: Être ou ne pas être CC/DV

9325-8317 Québec Inc

Patrick Fauquembergue, Daniel Morin

Un journaliste scientifique cherche à créer son double numérique à partir de ses données personnelles et des technologies existante. Rythmée par les grandes étapes de la vie, la série fait le parallèle entre le développement de l'humain et celui de l'IA.

QUEBEC

SRC, Explora, RDI



## Kings of Coke CC/DV

URBANIA TV and Connect3 Media

Philippe Lamarre, Raphaëlle Huysmans, Pablo Salzman, Michael Kronish, Andre Barro, Annie Bordeau

*Kings of Coke*, a feature documentary film about the rise and fall of Montreal's infamous West End Gang, documents the gang's ascent from a ragtag group of thieves to international drug importers.

QUEBEC

Bell Media



## Laissez-nous raconter CC/DV

Terre Innue Productions Inc.

Josée Rock, Alexandre Bacon, Francine Allaire, Kim O'Bomsawin, Natalie Dubois, Ian Boyd, Florent Volland

The 11 First Nations in Quebec and Labrador share with us their history, their world view, their wounds and hopes from their perspective and in their own way. *Telling Our Story* is a celebration of their resistance, resilience and revival.

QUEBEC

SRC / CBC



## Meet and Eat at Lee's Garden CC/DV

CC/DV

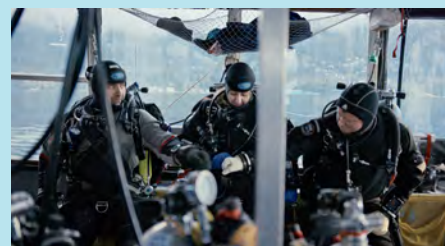
Cinnamon Bowl Productions

Howard Tan, Day's Lee, Isabelle Gregoire

A social and historical look at Chinese restaurants in Montreal in the 1950s and what they meant to the Chinese and Jewish communities through the memories of the daughter of a restaurant owner.

QUEBEC

CBC



## Moonless Oasis CC/DV

Perpetuum Films Ltd.

Josh Huculiak, Bryce Zimmerman, Nate Slaco

Deep below Howe Sound lies a world lost to time – glass sponge reefs thought to be extinct for 40 million years. Meet the citizen scientists putting life and livelihood on the line to protect them.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

CBC



## Le mythe de la femme noire

CC/DV

Bel Ange Moon Productions

Bianca Bellange, Ayana O'Shun

*Le mythe de la femme noire* (*The Myth of the Black Woman*) is a documentary feature film that investigates how the stereotypes associated with Black women affect their day-to-day lives.

QUEBEC

Natf TV



## Nature's Reboot

CC/DV

Nature's Reboot Productions Inc.

Christine Nielsen, Diana Warmé

As humans hunkered down to battle the pandemic, Nature welcomed our absence. *Nature's Reboot* follows scientists who seized the moment to explore the most dramatic unplanned experiment in modern history and how it affected the natural world.

ONTARIO

CBC



## L'océan vu du coeur

CC/DV

Jane Losa Films Inc.

Isabelle Couture, Marie-Dominique Michaud, Chantale Pagé

Hubert Reeves brings together specialists to take stock of the threats to the ocean and its power to regenerate. We learn how we can survive climate change and declining biodiversity by changing the paradigm and establishing a new connection with life.

QUEBEC

TV5



## Possessing Einstein

CC/DV

Frequent Flyer Films Inc.

Michelle Shephard, Bryn Hughes, Carolyn Abraham

A story of possession, obsession and the tormented life of the Princeton pathologist who stole Einstein's brain believing it would solve the mystery of genius and make him a scientific hero. Instead, it leads to his ruin.

ONTARIO

Documentary Channel



## Pour un verre d'eau (working title)

CC/DV

Les Films Extérieur Jour Inc.

Amélie Lambert Bouchard, Elodie Pollet, Ian Quenneville

There is something magical about drinking water: open a tap and it flows in an unlimited supply. With the help of Nathalie Lasselin, a renowned diver, the documentary aims to deconstruct the myth of our relationship with water in Quebec.

QUEBEC

Télé-Québec



## Pouvoir oublier

CC/DV

Bunbury Films Inc.

Frédéric Bohbot, Valérie Shamash

Fifty years after Quebec unions initiated the first "Common Front" to shut down the province, *Pouvoir oublier* asks if the working class has forgotten the power it once held – and can they forget the tragic consequences of past actions?

QUEBEC

Télé-Québec

# How do old stereotypes still affect Black women?

Today, centuries-old stereotypes continue to plague women of African descent. **Le mythe de la femme noire** investigates how. Through gripping interviews, this feature documentary reveals the impacts of harmful caricatures like the seductive Jezebel, the domestic Mammy, or the angry Black woman.





## What can a pandemic teach us about conservation?

As people hunkered down in the face of COVID-19, the natural world flourished. **Nature's Reboot** follows scientists as they take advantage of this rare opportunity to study how wildlife can thrive when humans aren't around – from belugas unbothered by cruise ship noise to snow geese enjoying hassle-free migrations.



### Saving Charlotte's Castle CC/DV

Cave 7 Productions Inc.

Jamie Kastner, Laura Baron Kastner

Squeezed by skyrocketing real estate in the city they helped to enrich, a quirky cast of unlikely activists in Jimmy Choos wages war against a foreign-owned developer seeking to destroy the remarkable upscale rental building they call home.

ONTARIO  
TVO



### The Spirit Remains CC/DV

Bear Paw New Media Productions Inc.

Brian J. Francis, Diane Barnes

Through discussions, music and a variety of visuals, we document the journey of emerging filmmaker Mélanie Line Richard as she explores the impact of the expropriation of her people, the healing process and the relationship between nature and human resilience.

NEW BRUNSWICK  
CBC



### The Star CC/DV

Primitive Entertainment Inc.

Felicity Justrabo, Kevin McMahon, Michael McMahon

*The Star* is a fly-on-the-wall feature documentary about *The Toronto Star* – Canada's largest daily – capturing it at a moment of profound transition for the newspaper and for journalism more broadly.

ONTARIO  
TVO



### The Society Page CC/DV

Towntalk Productions Inc.

Kevin Eastwood

A documentary portrait about society columnist Malcolm Parry. Over the span of four decades, "Mac" has taken pictures of virtually everyone – and in so doing has created a one-of-a-kind composite record of the people of the region.

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Knowledge Network



### Splash Dance CC/DV

Tell Tale Productions Inc.

Erin Oakes, Edward Peill

*Splash Dance* follows five senior synchronized swimmers – ages 60 to 80 – as they push their physical, mental and emotional limits on their quest for gold at the 2021 Masters Championship.

NOVA SCOTIA  
Vision TV



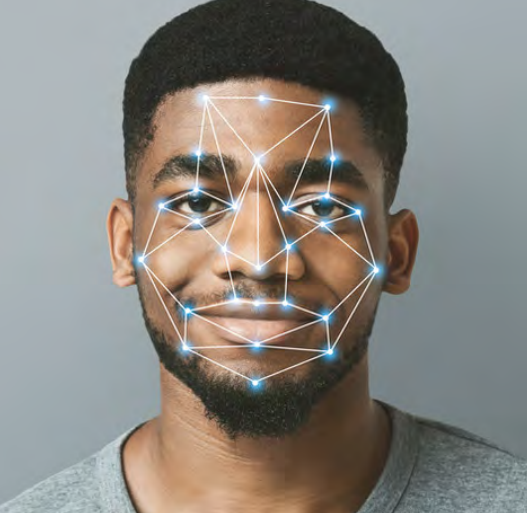
### State of the Planet CC/DV

Yap Films Inc.

Elliott Halpern, Elizabeth Trojan

*State of the Planet* follows leading climate scientists in the field as they take the pulse of our country, showing the undeniable truths about how climate change is reshaping Canada with an arc of historic impact.

ONTARIO  
CBC



## When does technology go too far?

Human brains are impressively good at recognizing faces. Now, the latest neuroscientific discoveries are revealing how – discoveries that have also led to facial recognition software.

**Unmasking the Human Face** unpacks those breakthroughs and the frightening ramifications they make possible, including Big Brother-style surveillance.



### Unmasking the Human Face

CC/DV

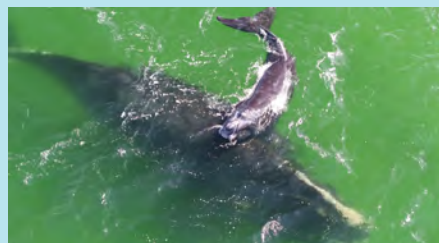
Josh Freed Productions

*Josh Freed, Janet Torge*

Face it, we all have the same tedious configuration of features: two eyes above a nose and a mouth. But identifying people is an ancient ability. So what happens now that technology is unmasking the human face?

QUEBEC

CBC



### The Urban Whale

CC/DV

Urban Whale Inc.

*Nadine Pequenez, Joanne Jackson*

With unprecedented access to film the North Atlantic right whale migration from their Florida breeding ground to their feeding area in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, this documentary brings a message of hope about a whale on the brink of extinction.

ONTARIO

CBC



### Vaccine Hunters

CC/DV

Infield Fly Productions

*Dugald Maudsley, Gillian Main, Monika Delmos*

The intimate and dramatic inside story of six international teams of researchers and their historic high-stakes race to push the boundaries of science and create a vaccine to defeat a killer virus and save millions of lives.

ONTARIO

CBC



### La vie devant moi

CC/DV

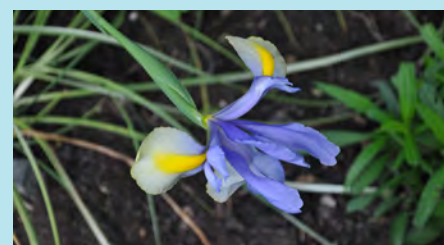
Productions Nova Média Inc.

*Yves Lafontaine, Martine Larouche*

After cancer has put everything on hold, a group of young survivors come out of their isolation and regain confidence in life by participating in therapeutic expeditions in the heart of nature.

QUEBEC

SRC



### Visionary Gardeners, Season I

CC/DV

VG Productions Inc.

*Moses Znaimer, Mark Bradley, Ian Toews, Beverley Shenken, Amy Walker*

*Visionary Gardeners* features brilliant and innovative people who have mastered the art of gardening over their lifetime. True visionaries, they understand that what they do in their garden today will affect tomorrow, next season and next year.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vision TV



### Who Knew What? Anatomy of an Accusation

CC/DV

Who Knew What Inc.

*Paul Kemp, Michael McGowan, Tad Munnings*

An investigation into how the most esteemed university athletic coach in Canadian history was allowed to evade sexual abuse allegations for 15 years, despite his university's knowledge of the situation.

ONTARIO

CBC



# Theatrical Documentary Program

Since 2007, the Rogers Group of Funds has been teaming up with Telefilm Canada to offer the Theatrical Documentary Program – a program focused on supporting feature-length documentaries that will wow audiences in Canada and around the world. In 2020, we invested \$227,500 to bring three powerful stories of change, adaptation, survival and triumph to the big screen.



## **The Gig is Up** CC/DV

Intuitive Pictures Productions Inc. /  
Point du Jour

*Ina Fichman*

The Platform Economy is changing the way we live and work, and humans who perform computer-like tasks are the central commodity. Referred to as meatware, who are these people and how is this new economy transforming our lives?

**QUEBEC**

ARTE, Documentary Channel



## **Nitassinan** CC/DV

9104-0998 Québec Inc. aka Terre  
Innué

*Josée Rock, Ian Boyd, Elodie Pollet*

An uplifting encounter with landscape, language and memory, *Nitassinan* is both the untold story and the celebration of the resilience and the tenacity and the hardships and joys of the Innu people as they have crisscrossed their incredible boreal landscape for thousands of years.

**QUEBEC**

K-Films Amérique



## **Red Fever** CC/DV

Rezolution Pictures International Inc.

*Catherine Bainbridge*

“Why do you love us so much?” asks Cree co-director, Neil Diamond. So begins *Red Fever*, a feature-length documentary that explores the Indigenous influence on North American culture and beyond. From fashion to music, to art and sports, *Red Fever* will take us on a journey to explore the cultural fascination with everything Native American.

**QUEBEC**

TVO, SRC, APTN, Knowledge

# Rogers + Creative BC

## Documentary and Factual Development Fund

creativeBC

Our latest fund aims to make great television and film possible. At the same time, it's increasing the representation of filmmakers who identify as Black, Indigenous and/or People of Colour. This one-of-a-kind partnership with Creative BC supports made-in-B.C. documentaries and factual series before they've been greenlit. In 2020, we invested \$238,000 in 32 promising projects.

### #Generation: Ocean

Silverlight Entertainment  
Inc.

### 47

Bad Bannock Films

### Agaskoons

Hunkpapa Films

### The Art of (the) Warrior

Tohkapi Cinema

### Artifact Mysteries

Romer Media

### Bats

291 Film Company Inc.

### Beyond the Podium: Celebrating Canadian Women Champions

Whitehall Entertainment  
Incorporated

### The Big Hunt

CanazWest Pictures Inc.

### A Cedar Is Life

Drama Camp Productions

### Curl Power

Josephine Anderson

### Dark Skies

Adanac Film Production  
Inc.

### Elliott

Amazing Factory  
Productions Inc.

### Emergence: Out of the Shadows

Sher Vancouver LGBTQ  
Friends Society

### Family Bakery

Keredfilms

### Future Makers

John Dippong

### Good Food City

Dunya Media Inc.

### How to Solve Your Own Problems

Screen Siren Pictures Inc.

### In Search of the Lesbian Nation

On The Creek Films

### In the Wake

Lantern Films

### International Rocketship

Meditating Bunny  
Studio Inc.

### The Last Totem

Taxam Films

### The Lie Detectors

Katy Tooth

### Lost in the Shuffle

Animal Mother Films

### Lunatic

Black Moon Media Inc.

### The Manus Four

SILLO Entertainment Inc.

### Muddy Waters

RealWorld Media Inc.

### Pelke

Foreshadow Films

### Reclaim My Skin

Marie Clements Media Inc

### Sacred Indigenous Sites

Seawolf Productions Inc.

### The Shaman's Shadow

AGA Films

### Trafficked: Saving Canada's Sex Slaves

Wapanatahk Media Inc.

### Wild Kitchen

Anaid Entertainment Inc.



When you've closed a deal with investors and broadcasters but you need cashflow now, where do you turn? For four decades, Rogers Telefund has provided advances to producers when they need it most. In 2020, this revolving fund distributed \$17,143,000 in low-interest loans, helping 23 productions keep the cameras rolling.



### The Alternative Guide to Saving the Planet

Infield Fly Productions

*Dugald Maudsley, Gillian Main*

ONTARIO  
CBC

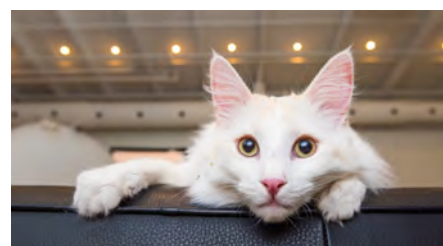


### Born Bad

Parabellum Pictures Inc.

*Marc de Guerre*

ONTARIO  
CBC



### Catwalk 2: Bobby's Revenge

Bobby MSF Inc.

*Judy Holm, Michael McNamara, Aaron Hancox*

ONTARIO  
CBC, Documentary Channel

# \$17.1

Million

# 23

Projects

# 60

Programming  
Hours



Photo: k.north.photography

## What makes a home?

For kids and told by kids, **My Home, My Life!** celebrates family in all its wonderful diversity. The episodes challenge preconceived notions by inviting viewers into the homes of children from a wide range of backgrounds and traditions – featuring nuclear and adopted families, divorced parents and much more.



Photo: Dan Callis

### Dawn, Her Dad & the Tractor

New Dawn Films Ltd.

*Terry Greenlaw*

**NOVA SCOTIA**

Crave



### Dead Man's Switch: A Crypto Mystery

0987800 B.C. Ltd.

*Sheona McDonald*

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Documentary Channel



### Dr. Keri: Prairie Vet, Season 4

Merit Motion Pictures Inc.

*Merit Jensen Carr, Shereen Jerrett, Alexa Rosentreter*

**MANITOBA**

Animal Planet



### End of the Line

EOTL Productions Inc.

*Amanda Handy, Peter Findlay, Mark Johnston*

**ONTARIO**

CBC



### The Face of Anonymous

Storyline Entertainment Inc.

*Ed Barreveld*

**ONTARIO**

TVO, Knowledge Network



### Fight to the Finish

2727800 Ontario Inc.

*David York, Barry Stevens, Bryn Hughes*

**ONTARIO**

Corus



### Hell or Clean Water

Little Heat Films Inc.

*Jennifer Hawley, Cody Westman*

**NEWFOUNDLAND**

Documentary Channel



### Hudson & Rex, Season 3

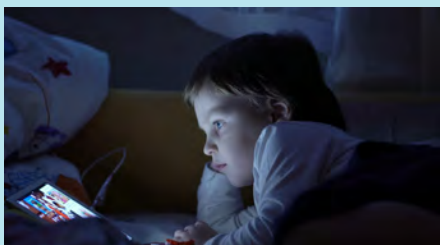
Shaftesbury Rex III Inc. and Pope Rex Season 3 Inc.

*Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, Paul Pope, Cal Coons, Derek Schreyer*

**ONTARIO / NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR**

Rogers Media Inc.





## Kids vs. Screens

Screen Kids Productions Inc.

*Leora Eisen, Jacki Carlos, Diana Warmé*

ONTARIO  
CBC



## Magic Shadows: Elwy Yost and the Movies

2727185 Ontario Inc.

*Colette Vosberg*

ONTARIO  
TVO, Hollywood Suite



## My Home, My Life, Season 2

Lopii MHML II Productions Inc.

*Rennata Lopez, Georgina Lopez*

ONTARIO  
TVO



## Political Blind Date, Season 4

PBD Productions IV Inc.

*Amanda Handy, Tom Powers, Mark Johnston*

ONTARIO  
TVO



## Rebellion

Climate Project Inc.

*Caitlin Starowicz, Mark Starowicz, Diana Warmé*

ONTARIO  
CBC



## Records

2741651 Ontario Inc.

*Kevin McMahon, Michael McMahon, Felicity Justrabo*

ONTARIO  
TVO



## Skymaster Down

Skymaster Productions Inc.

*Andrew Gregg, Deborah Parks*

ONTARIO  
Documentary Channel



## Tribal, Season 2

Tribal Cycle II Ltd.

*Ron E. Scott, Janet Hamley, Scott Lepp*

ALBERTA  
APTN



## Tzouhalem

Drama Camp Productions Inc.

*Leslie Bland, Harold Joe*

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Super Channel, CHEK TV, FNX



## Vote Pop

Vote Pop Inc.

*Virginie Corneau, Simon Madore, David Baeta*

ONTARIO  
SRC



## Wildhood

Runaway Films Inc.

*Gharrett Paon, Julie Baldassi, Damon D'Oliveira*

NOVA SCOTIA  
CBC



## The World's Biggest Family

Big Family Productions Inc.

*Barry Stevens*

ONTARIO  
CBC

# Board of Directors

Over the course of his career, **WAYNE CLARKSON** (independent) has headed up some of Canada's most respected film and television institutions, including the National Film Theatre, the Ontario Film Development Corporation (now Ontario Creates), Toronto's Festival of Festivals (now the Toronto International Film Festival), the Canadian Film Centre and Telefilm Canada (as Executive Director).

Mr. Clarkson has received numerous industry awards, including the Clyde Gilmour Lifetime Achievement Award from the Toronto Film Critics Association and the Toronto Arts Award for contributions to Canadian cinema. In 2020, he became an inductee into the Playback Hall of Fame. He also has served on numerous boards and advisory groups, including the Toronto International Film Festival and the federal task force for feature film policy.

**ALISON CLAYTON** (independent) is a senior broadcasting executive with many years of experience in the production, distribution, programming and financing of Canadian television.

As an award-winning producer with Crawley Films, Ms. Clayton oversaw the production of more than 100 children's television programs, including two Gemini Award winners. During this time, Ms. Clayton was President of the Canadian Film and Television Association (now the Canadian Media Producers Association).

Her broadcasting experience includes the launch and management of The Biography Channel, G4 Tech TV and MSNBC Canada, as well as senior programming positions with The Family Channel, The Movie Network and MOVIEPIX.

Ms. Clayton is a director of the Canada Media Fund and a former member of the board of Outdoor Life Network and the Canadian Television Fund. Ms. Clayton is the board member responsible for Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs) and their consideration in all funding decisions.

**JAN INNES** (independent) is a Board Director and Public Affairs specialist. Ms. Innes worked for 25 years at Rogers Communications handling corporate communications, public affairs and government relations.

She completed the Directors Education Program at the Rotman School of Management.

With a long-time interest in film and television, Ms. Innes sat on the Board of the Toronto International Film Festival for 15 years and is active today with Hot Docs, co-chairing a campaign committee.

**PHILIP B. LIND**, CHAIR (non-independent) is one of the founders of Rogers Communications Inc. and currently serves as its Vice Chairman. Mr. Lind was the founding Chairman of the Canada Media Fund, the central funding agency for television programming in Canada.

Mr. Lind has an interest in contemporary art and serves on the board of the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Vancouver Art Gallery. Mr. Lind is also Chairman of CPAC – the only Canadian media network focused exclusively on politics, Parliament and public affairs.





**Left to right:**

Wayne Clarkson, Alison Clayton, Jan Innes,  
Philip B. Lind, Mary Powers, Sally R. Warren

**MARY POWERS** (independent) is a consultant specializing in communications and marketing in the international content marketplace. Her diverse client roster has included multiplatform producers, distributors and studios, in Canada and the U.S.

A media industry veteran, Ms. Powers spent a good deal of her career with CHUM Limited, then one of Canada's leading media companies, where she led domestic and international communications and investor relations. She then became SVP Corporate Communications for CTVglobemedia (now Bell Media), prior to launching her company.

She is Past Chair of the Banff World Media Festival and the international content marketing association Promax, and a past board member of The Toronto Symphony Orchestra and The Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, among others.

**SALLY R. WARREN** (independent) is a communications consultant and writer with a broad-based background in magazine editing, press relations and government regulation. From 1986 to 1997 she was a commissioner on the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

Ms. Warren, who has served on numerous civic and community boards, continues her involvement with the Vancouver Library Foundation. In addition, she has joined the board of the Health Arts Society, an organization that has arranged over 12,000 professional musical performances in care residences across Canada.

Ms. Warren edited a Vancouver city magazine for 11 years and has written freelance for several U.S. and Canadian publications. Additionally, she wrote a non-fiction book that was published by HarperCollins and has been printed in 11 languages.

## French Advisory Committee

Since 1997, **SUZANNE D'AMOURS** has been working as a consultant, mainly in the field of cinema and television, in the recording and entertainment industries and in the area of literary publishing. As part of her work, Ms. D'Amours has conducted numerous studies and contributed to the establishment of various financing programs, including tax credit programs related to cultural productions. Further, she writes reports for associations and organizations involved in cultural policy review or calls for comments by the CRTC.

**PIERRE GANG** is a film director whose movies have represented Canada in many international film festivals, including Cannes and Locarno. His work in television has earned him numerous Emmy Award nominations, including 10 nominations for his work on the television series *Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City*. For more than nine years, Mr. Gang was Program Director of TV5 Canada, and he was instrumental in launching the UNIS television network.

After freelancing as a script advisor, **NICOLE GIROUX** joined Telefilm Canada as content analyst for feature films and television series (1997) and was head of the Feature Film Unit of the Montreal Office (1998-1999). Over 30+ years as a script editor, consultant in development and analyst for financial partners (Telefilm, SODEC, Radio-Canada) and leading producers and distributors, she has extensive experience in evaluating projects based on the script and the creative team.

# Discoverability and promotion

The Rogers Group of Funds does more than just finance great productions. We also help Canadian TV shows and movies attract the critical attention they deserve and build a solid fan base. In 2020, we put the spotlight on Canadian content in the midst of a pandemic, creating buzz through a broad range of efforts.

This included funding the following prizes at major festivals:

- **Banff World Media Festival** – funding of \$25,000 for the winner of the “Rogers Prize for Excellence in Canadian Content”
- **Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival** – funding of \$50,000 for the “Rogers Audience Award for Best Canadian Documentary”
- **Toronto Film Critics Awards** – funding of \$100,000 for the winner of the “Rogers Best Canadian Film Award”
- **Vancouver International Film Festival** – funding of a \$15,000 prize for “Best Canadian Documentary”

In addition, we supported the following events and organizations through grants and sponsorships:

- **Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television**
- **Canadian Media Producers Association’s** annual Prime Time in Ottawa conference
- **Content Canada**
- **Directors Guild of Canada**
- **Doc Circuit Montréal**
- **DOXA Documentary Film Festival**
- **Prix Géméaux**
- **Reelworld Film Festival**
- **Rogers-DOC Luminary Award**
- **St. John’s International Women’s Film Festival**
- **Talking Stick Festival**





# Financial commitments

## Certified Independent Production Funds

2020	Rogers Documentary Fund	Rogers Cable Network Fund
Number of applications received and funded by Rogers*	117/48	46/18
Regional project commitments	\$990,000	\$1,317,500
Indigenous-language project commitments	\$0	\$0
Third-language project commitments	\$0	\$105,500
Commitments to English-language projects produced within Quebec	\$520,000	\$200,068
Commitments to French-language projects produced outside Quebec	\$0	\$0
English-language project commitments	\$3,080,330	\$4,539,500
French-language project commitments	\$1,200,225	\$0

### Rogers Documentary and Cable Network Fund Measurements for Success

When assessing the potential for success of a program, the Board of Directors will consider the following set of criteria for all applications received as part of its decision-making process:

#### Cable Network Fund

- producer track record
- international pre-sales/financing
- creative team
- audience appeal in Canada
- international audience appeal
- sales and distribution potential

#### Documentary Fund

- producer track record
- international pre-sales/financing
- creative team
- audience appeal in Canada
- international audience appeal
- sales and distribution potential
- film festival potential

### Official Language Minority Communities (OLMCs)

As stated in our Rogers Documentary and Cable Network Fund guidelines, the Board of Directors will undertake consideration of all of Canada's regions as well as minority language communities in its funding decisions. The Rogers Group of Funds will continue our outreach to producers working in these communities, as well as to the associations representing their interests.

\* The number of applications received and funded does not include the projects funded by Rogers Theatrical Documentary Program.

# Financial Statements of Rogers Documentary and Cable Network Fund

And Independent Auditors' Report thereon  
Year ended December 31, 2020





KPMG LLP  
Vaughan Metropolitan Centre  
100 New Park Place, Suite 1400  
Vaughan ON L4K 0J3  
Canada  
Tel 905-265-5900  
Fax 905-265-6390

## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Directors of Rogers Documentary and Cable Network Fund

### ***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of Rogers Documentary and Cable Network Fund (the Entity), which comprise:

- the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2020
- the statement of operations for the year then ended
- the statement of changes in net assets for the year then ended
- the statement of cash flows for the year then ended
- and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies

(Hereinafter referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Entity as at December 31, 2020, 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 **"Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements"** section of our auditors' report.

We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada and we have fulfilled our other ethical 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 of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, 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 Entity'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 Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

***Auditors' 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 auditors' 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 the 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 Entity'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 Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' 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 auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity 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 represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- 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.



Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Vaughan, Canada

March 12, 2021

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019

	2020	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 22,889,831	\$ 20,545,933
Harmonized sales tax receivable (note 5)	140,713	89,661
	<u>\$ 23,030,544</u>	<u>\$ 20,635,594</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 32,000	\$ 32,000
Programming contribution commitments	11,620,909	8,389,905
Due to Rogers Telefund (note 4)	—	19,311
	<u>11,652,909</u>	<u>8,441,216</u>
Net assets:		
Rogers Documentary Fund	103,129	(84,522)
Rogers Cable Network Fund	11,274,506	12,278,900
	<u>11,377,635</u>	<u>12,194,378</u>
	<u>\$ 23,030,544</u>	<u>\$ 20,635,594</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

s/Phil Lind Chair, Board of Directors



# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

## Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019

	2020	2019
Revenue:		
Contributions from Rogers Communications		
Canada Inc.	\$ 7,940,902	\$ 8,158,926
Recoveries from programming and productions	1,280,806	1,412,282
Investment	190,873	401,918
	9,412,581	9,973,126
Expenditures:		
Programming contribution commitments	9,800,139	7,058,971
General and administrative	429,185	494,795
	10,229,324	7,553,766
Excess of (expenditures over revenue)		
revenue over expenditures	\$ (816,743)	\$ 2,419,360

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

## Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019

			2020	2019
	Rogers Documentary Fund	Rogers Cable Network Fund	Total	Total
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ (84,522)	\$ 12,278,900	\$ 12,194,378	\$ 9,775,018
Excess of (expenditures over revenue) revenue over expenditures	187,651	(1,004,394)	(816,743)	2,419,360
Net assets, end of year	\$ 103,129	\$ 11,274,506	\$ 11,377,635	\$ 12,194,378

See accompanying notes to financial statements.



# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019

	2020	2019
Cash flows from (used in) operating activities:		
Excess of (expenditures over revenue)		
revenue over expenditures	\$ (816,743)	\$ 2,419,360
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
(Increase) decrease in harmonized		
sales tax receivable	(51,052)	217,155
Increase (decrease) in programming		
contribution commitments	3,231,004	(1,631,543)
(Decrease) increase in due to Rogers Telefund	(19,311)	1,057
Increase in cash and cash equivalents	2,343,898	1,006,029
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	20,545,933	19,539,904
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 22,889,831	\$ 20,545,933

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2020

---

The Rogers Documentary and Cable Network Fund (the "Fund") is a not-for-profit organization incorporated without share capital under the laws of Canada. The Fund's mission is to foster, promote, develop and finance the production of Canadian television programming by means of two separate independent production funds established for that purpose: the Rogers Documentary Fund and the Rogers Cable Network Fund. The Fund receives all of its contributions from Rogers Communications Canada Inc. ("RCCI"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Rogers Communications Inc. The Fund is exempt from taxes under Section 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act (Canada). The Fund is registered with the Canada Revenue Agency for purposes of the harmonized sales tax ("HST").

### 1. Operations:

The Fund receives contributions from RCCI, a broadcast distribution company, pursuant to conditions of licenses granted to such distribution undertakings by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (the "CRTC"). Broadcast distribution undertakings are required to contribute 5% of their gross broadcasting revenue to Canadian programming with 1.7% to 3.2% to be contributed to production funds.

Additionally, the Fund receives contributions from RCCI related to its Video-on-Demand ("VOD") and Sports Pay-per-View ("Sports") programming licenses. Contributions from the VOD and Sports programming licenses are 2.5% and 3.33% of its gross broadcasting revenues, respectively.

### 2. Significant accounting policies:

#### (a) Basis of presentation:

The financial statements have been prepared by management in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations ("ASNPO") set out in Part III of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada Handbook - Accounting.

#### (b) Use of estimates:

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with ASNPO requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenditures during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.



# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2020

---

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (c) Revenue recognition:

The Fund follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions from broadcast distribution companies. Contributions are recognized as revenue when received or to a lesser extent receivable if the amount to receive can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured, for the latter, the receivable is recorded only when the contribution payment is not received on the current month mostly due to delays on the RCCI Accounts Payable system, a receivable reversal is recorded the subsequent month when the payment is actually received.

Recoveries from programming and productions are recognized when received due to the unpredictability of amounts to be received.

Investment income is recognized in the year in which the revenue is earned.

### (d) Programming contribution commitments:

Programming contribution commitments are expensed in the year in which the Fund determines that the application for project funding meets the criteria specified in its guidelines and the Fund approves the contribution amount requested by the applicant. The Fund typically remits the amount committed within 6 to 18 months after the approval for funding, provided all payment conditions are met and all supporting documentation is submitted by the funding recipient. In certain instances, the actual amounts paid differ from the original commitment. Adjustments for these differences are recorded in the year determined. During 2020, an aggregate of \$417,875 (2019 - \$710,902) of adjustments was recorded to decrease programming contribution commitments initially established in prior years.

Included in the programming contributions commitments is \$227,500 (2019 - nil) related to the Theatrical Documentary Program ("TDP") associated with Telefilm Canada ("Telefilm"). The goal of the TDP is to broaden the range of Canadian feature-length documentaries for theatrical distribution in English and French in Canada. Telefilm is a Crown corporation reporting to Canada's federal government through the Minister of Canadian Heritage. Telefilm's mandate is to finance and promote through their various funds and programs Canada's audiovisual industry.

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2020

---

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

Also, in accordance with CRTC broadcasting policy 2016-343, the Fund committed \$418,000 (2019 - \$341,000) for "Promotion and Discoverability", a channel of funding established in fiscal 2017. The goal of this initiative is to benefit stakeholders involved in the creation of Canadian content and make their projects the most successful as possible while being visible and available on multiple platforms. Essentially, the projects will be properly promoted prior to being discovered by a large audience.

Additionally, in 2020 a new line of funding for \$200,000 (2019 - nil) was implemented: "The Documentary and Factual Development Fund" in association with Creative BC. The purpose of this Fund is to support domestic creators in British Columbia of documentary singles, series and factual series. In doing that, Rogers Fund will increase its investment in British Columbia while helping grow opportunity for B.C.-based documentary and factual projects. Creative BC is an independent agency created and supported by the Province of British Columbia to sustain and help grow BC's creative sector (film and television, digital and interactive media, music, and magazine and book publishing industries). The agency delivers a wide range of programs and services to expand BC's creative economy.

### (e) Cash and cash equivalents:

The Fund considers all highly liquid investment instruments with a maturity of three months or less at the time of purchase to be cash equivalents.

### (f) Financial instruments:

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value on initial recognition and are subsequently recorded at cost or amortized cost, unless management has elected to carry the instruments at fair value. The Fund has not elected to carry any such financial instruments at fair value.

Transaction costs incurred on the acquisition of financial instruments measured subsequently at fair value are expensed as incurred. All other financial instruments are adjusted by transaction costs incurred on acquisition and financing costs, which are amortized using the straight-line method.

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2020

---

## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

Financial assets are assessed for impairment on an annual basis at the end of the fiscal year if there are indicators of impairment. If there is an indicator of impairment, the Fund determines if there is a significant adverse change in the expected amount or timing of future cash flows from the financial asset. If there is a significant adverse change in the expected cash flows, the carrying value of the financial asset is reduced to the highest of the present value of the expected cash flows, the amount that could be realized from selling the financial asset or the amount the Fund expects to realize by exercising its right to any collateral. If events and circumstances reverse in a future year, an impairment loss will be reversed to the extent of the improvement, not exceeding the initial carrying value.

## 3. Fair values of financial instruments:

The carrying amounts of cash and cash equivalents, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, programming contribution commitments and due to Rogers Telefund approximate their fair values due to the short-term nature of these financial instruments.

## 4. Related party transactions:

The Fund has entered into an agreement with Rogers Telefund, a related party due to its common management, whereby Rogers Telefund provides administrative services to the Fund. The amounts are recorded at the exchange amount, as agreed to by the parties and are non-interest bearing and due on demand. As required by the CRTC, total administrative expenditures incurred by the Fund in any particular year may not exceed 5% of revenue of the Fund. During 2020, Rogers Telefund provided administrative services of \$296,582 (2019 - \$270,435) to the Fund. During the year ended December 31, 2020, the Fund did not exceed the 5% threshold. As at December 31, 2020, the balance due to the Rogers Telefund amounted to nil (2019 - \$19,311).

## 5. Harmonized sales tax receivable:

HST receivable comprises the net input tax credit receivable recorded by the Fund with respect to HST, pertaining to the equity payments made, net of recoveries earned in accordance with the equity investment agreement for financial support provided to a producer of specific programming or programs.



# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2020

---

## 6. Capital management and economic dependence:

The Fund includes cash and cash equivalents and net assets in its capital management consideration. The Fund's objectives when managing capital are to safeguard its ability to continue as a going concern and continue to execute its mandate.

The Fund monitors these items to assess its ability to fulfill its ongoing financial obligations. The Fund relies primarily on contributions to fund its operations and makes adjustments to its budgeted expenditures in light of changes. The Fund is not subject to externally imposed capital requirements.

The Fund is dependent on contributions from RCCI for continued operations.

## 7. Financial risks:

### (a) Liquidity risk:

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund will be unable to fulfill its obligations on a timely basis or at a reasonable cost. The Fund manages its liquidity risk by monitoring its operating requirements. The Fund prepares budget and cash forecasts to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfill its obligations. There has been no change to the risk exposures from 2019.

### (b) Credit risk:

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty may default on its contractual obligations resulting in a financial loss.

Rogers is a proud Canadian company dedicated to making more possible for Canadians each and every day. Our founder, Ted Rogers, purchased his first radio station, CHFI, in 1960. We have grown to become a leading technology and media company that strives to provide the very best in wireless, residential, sports, and media to Canadians and Canadian businesses. Our shares are publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: RCI.A and RCI.B) and on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: RCI).



One Mount Pleasant Rd.  
Toronto, ON Canada M4Y 2Y5  
Tel: 416-935-2526  
[www.rogersgroupoffunds.com](http://www.rogersgroupoffunds.com)

Cover photo from the documentary *Category: Woman*