

Annual Report | 2023

Canadian independent  
television & film

# Amplified

 **ROGERS**  
Group of Funds

Over  
\$23 million  
invested in 90  
productions  
in 2023

Cover: **FreeUp! Emancipation Day 2023** immerses viewers in the essence of Emancipation Day through art, dialogue and music, including singer-songwriter Kaia Kater's enchanting tunes.

# Empowering. Amplifying. Celebrating.

Canada's independent producers have stories to tell, perspectives to share and truths to uncover. The Rogers Group of Funds is proud to amplify those efforts.

When Phil Lind launched our first fund in 1980, his purpose was to help grow Canada's independent television and film industry into a commercial and creative success story.

And that's what we've been doing ever since.

We've enabled more creators to realize their visions. In 2023, we provided \$23.5 million to bring 90 productions to life.

We've proudly promoted this incredible work. And by funding festival prizes, supporting industry organizations and sponsoring events, we've also helped great Canadian television and film reach wider audiences and achieve more commercial success.

At the same time we've magnified the diversity of voices, narratives and points of view that reach the screen. In May, we gave out the third round of grants through our million-dollar Rogers Indigenous Film Fund Program,

backing 11 early-stage projects led by First Nations, Métis and Inuit creators.

In September, we supported 13 Black and People of Colour writers through the Rogers-Black Screen Office Script Development Fund, enabling them to move their projects from early development to a scripted treatment or teaser.

And through our longstanding Cable Network Fund, Documentary Fund and Telefund programs, we continued to support French- and English-language productions from a remarkable variety of regions and communities across the country.

Creating independent television and film has never been easy. But despite seismic shifts in the broadcasting landscape, Canadian producers keep persevering – and Canada is richer for their talents.

We're there for them. With the unwavering support of Rogers Communications, the Rogers Group of Funds will carry on Phil's legacy, doing our part to ensure outstanding productions get made, seen and celebrated.

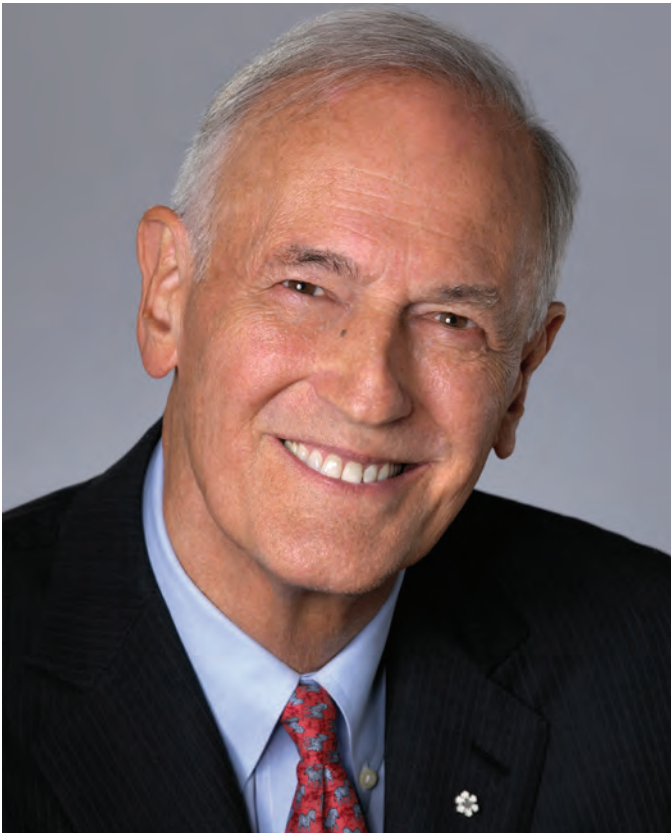


**Robin C. Mirsky**, Executive Director, Rogers Group of Funds

**Jan Innes**, Board Chair, Rogers Group of Funds

# Tribute to a titan

Celebrating the impact of **Philip B. Lind, 1943–2023**



As a steadfast champion of Canadian independent television and film, Phil helped transform a nascent industry into a creative powerhouse.

He launched Telefund a decade into his career at Rogers Communications, providing producers with crucial interim financing. Rogers Cable Network Fund and Rogers Documentary Fund

soon followed, creating today's Rogers Group of Funds, which Phil chaired right up until his passing.

Together, those funds have injected nearly \$700 million into the sector, bringing more than 2,700 uniquely Canadian productions to life.

But Phil's role went far beyond signing cheques. He hosted marquee events at TIFF and the Banff World Media Festival to celebrate the industry and promoted CanCon at every opportunity, ensuring it got the audiences it deserved.

In the mid-90s, he spearheaded the creation of what ultimately became the Canada Media Fund, another major source of industry support. He was a driving force behind the Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC) and a strong advocate of multilingual and multicultural programming.

His contributions weren't just limited to television and film. Phil was a Renaissance man with wide-ranging passions. He served on the boards of major art galleries. He played a pivotal role in Rogers acquiring the Toronto Blue Jays. He founded the Sierra Club of Ontario and was a long-time director of the Atlantic Salmon Federation.

**“Phil didn't pay lip service to creativity, he got behind it, supported it, for the good of the country. There are stories in the world today because of him.” – Valerie Creighton, President and CEO, Canada Media Fund**



And whatever he set his mind to, he pursued relentlessly.

For more than half a century, he worked alongside Ted Rogers to turn a small broadcasting company into a multi-billion-dollar communications and entertainment company. Even when a massive stroke in his 50s forced him to relearn how to walk, talk, read and write, Phil was back to his customary 14-hour workdays just a year later.

But he was also incredibly warm, generous and thoughtful, as his friends and colleagues will testify.

Phil's many honours over the course of his career – including the Order of Canada, induction into the U.S. Cable Hall of Fame and two honorary doctorates – speak to the breadth of his impact. But nowhere has he left a bigger legacy than in Canada's television and film industry.

**Thank you, Phil, for your vision, mentorship and tenacity.**

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“Phil Lind’s unwavering support for independent television and documentary production in Canada has been an invaluable beacon for our company.”

– **Elizabeth Trojian**, Yap Films Inc.

“Phil is a legend in our industry ... His dedication to Rogers was never-ending and his support of the arts incredible.”

– **Trish Dolman**, Screen Siren Pictures

“Artsy docs. Provocative films. Reality series. Phil and his team loved supporting all kinds of Canadian programs ... And if all that wasn't enough, for literally decades, Phil and Robin Mirsky threw the finest dinner party at the Banff Festival.”

– **David Paperny**, Paperny Films

“It's hard to express the significant impact that Phil had on Canadian shows getting produced in Canada. To be candid, it was all-encompassing and seismic.”

– **Christina Jennings**, Shaftesbury Inc.





Backspot

# Dramas that draw us in

Great characters. Gripping plot lines. Gritty issues. Discover Canadian feature films guaranteed to captivate audiences at home and around the world.



Can I Get a Witness?

**Can I Get a Witness?**, featuring Sandra Oh, envisions a not-too-distant future where 50-year-olds agree to end their lives for the sake of planetary survival. **All the Lost Ones** depicts an equally dystopian tomorrow, with a climate-fuelled civil war raging across the Eastern Seaboard. When the alt-right militia heads towards cottage country, the film's protagonists are forced to make a choice: surrender or fight.

But you don't need to travel to the future to find gripping drama. In **Sweet Summer Pow Wow**, two young Indigenous performers get a break from troubled lives and parental expectations through a summer romance on the pow wow circuit. Love also takes centre stage in **Backspot**, as two elite cheerleaders navigate athletic ambition, their budding relationship and their coach's antiquated ideas

about what it means to be a queer woman in the spotlight.

**Skeet** explores a different kind of relationship. When an ex-con returns home to discover radical changes in his Newfoundland neighbourhood, he forges a friendship with a recently immigrated Syrian man. Together, they find common ground as they struggle to adapt to their new realities.



All the Lost Ones



Photo: Terre Innué

Go North!

# Landscapes less travelled

Head off the beaten path with Canadian documentaries that transport you to untamed, unknown and unforgettable destinations across the country.





Photo: Renaud De Repentigny

Anticosti, l'école du bonheur?

Our first stop is the Gulf of St. Lawrence. **Anticosti, l'école du bonheur?** takes viewers to an isolated island recently designated a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here, a tight-knit school with an emphasis on outdoor education is helping young villagers learn more than spelling and arithmetic.

Next, travel into Canada's back country. In an eight-episode docuseries, **Northwoods Survival** follows a diverse group of modern-day homesteaders, each pursuing their dream of living off the grid in the unforgiving wilderness.

Few places are more unforgiving than the Arctic. **Go North!** showcases the many ways Indigenous Peoples have found to navigate this vast, frozen region. Each 60-minute episode highlights a different mode of travel – from dogsleds and mooseskin boats to modern air

ambulances – and how the forces of climate change and industrial development are reshaping the landscape.

Further south, climate change is turning B.C.'s landscape into a tinderbox. **Wildfire** immerses you in the adrenaline-fuelled world of wildfire fighting. Meet the army of people battling to keep communities safe, whether it's on the fire lines, in district command centres or in helicopters racing to the latest blaze.



Wildfire



Hope Makers – Pisuwin

# Performers in the spotlight

It's showtime! Get your backstage pass for a powerful lineup of headline artists, up-and-comers and trailblazers past and present.



Goddess of Slide

Since the 1980s, Blue Rodeo has sold millions of records and packed every conceivable concert venue across the country. **Blue Rodeo: Lost Together** tells the extraordinary tale of a band that has connected Canadians like few have done before.

Unfortunately, not all performers achieve the same level of success. **Ballad for Judi** shares the personal and professional heartbreaks of Edmonton-born Judi Singh, a Punjabi-Black jazz musician poised for greatness who never quite made it. **Goddess of Slide** honours Ellen McIlwaine, the legendary slide guitarist who ignited the stage with megastars like Jimi Hendrix but drove a school bus in her later years to make ends meet.

In Haiti, endemic violence and poverty can easily quash dreams of an acting career. But



Blue Rodeo: Lost Together

for the young actors profiled in **Koutkekout**, theatre is their weapon of resilience. Strength and resilience also underpin **Hope Makers – Pisuwin**. This documentary offers a behind-the-scenes look at the creation of the world's first Wolastoq ballet – a unique blend of Indigenous storytelling and European dance.

Meanwhile, **Turtle Island Rap** follows six emerging Indigenous hip-hop artists who are challenging prejudice, redefining Indigeneity and striving to make it in the music industry.



Turtle Island Rap



Photo: Dave Chan

Without Precedent: The Supreme Life of Rosalie Abella

# Intimate profiles

Dive deep into the lives of an eclectic mix of Canadians – some famous, some not, but all equally fascinating.



Michel Brault, *l'instinct de vue*



Photo: Fred Schiffer

Arthur Erickson: *The Concrete Poet*

**Antidiva: The Carole Pope Confessions** chronicles how a queer rock icon is navigating the hard realities of getting older with no partner or children to rely on. **Michel Brault**, *l'instinct de vue* shines a spotlight on “cinema’s great unsung hero,” a pioneer whose hand-held camera techniques made him one of the country’s most influential filmmakers.

**Without Precedent: The Supreme Life of Rosalie Abella** examines the meteoric career and major contributions of this passionate human rights advocate – the first Jewish woman to sit on the Supreme Court of Canada. Meanwhile, **Arthur Erickson: The Concrete Poet** follows the rise and fall of a legendary architect, whose lavish lifestyle and playboy parties garnered as much attention as his award-winning buildings.

Of course, captivating stories aren’t limited to public figures. In **Relationship Remix**, audiences get up close and personal with three Canadian mixed-race couples to see how they’ve learned to thrive together, despite significant cultural differences. And in the four-part series **Transplant Stories**, we meet the patients whose lives depend on organ transplants, and witness the remarkable doctors pulling off medical miracles.



Relationship Remix



The Good Canadian

# Injustices to confront

It's time to reckon with wrongs past and present. Get insights into darker chapters of our history, current inequities and how to create a more inclusive future.

**The Good Canadian** delves into the inherent racism that continues to destroy Indigenous Peoples and explores how individual Canadians contribute to the systemic discrimination, wittingly or unwittingly.

One of the most egregious examples is the disappearance of thousands of Indigenous children at residential schools. That's the focus of **The Knowing**, a four-part series led by award-winning Anishinaabe author Tanya Talaga.

In 1923, Canada enacted a ban on Chinese immigration. **Exclusion: A Centenary of Silence** looks at the law that tore apart generations of families and introduces viewers to two courageous women who fought for change.

**FreeUp! Emancipation Day 2023** celebrates a brighter moment, with music and reflections to mark 189 years since the abolition of slavery across the British Empire. But anti-Black racism isn't history. **Paid in Full: The Battle for Payback** documents the ongoing war waged by Black musicians to take ownership of the music they created.

Ownership is also the subject of **The Theft** and **Stuff the British Stole**. Both productions investigate how looted colonial artifacts



The Theft

ended up in museums around the world and the fight to bring them home.



Paid in Full: The Battle for Payback



Hairy Tales

# The wonder of science

Ignite your sense of curiosity with documentaries about human bodies, human behaviour and the species we share this planet with.



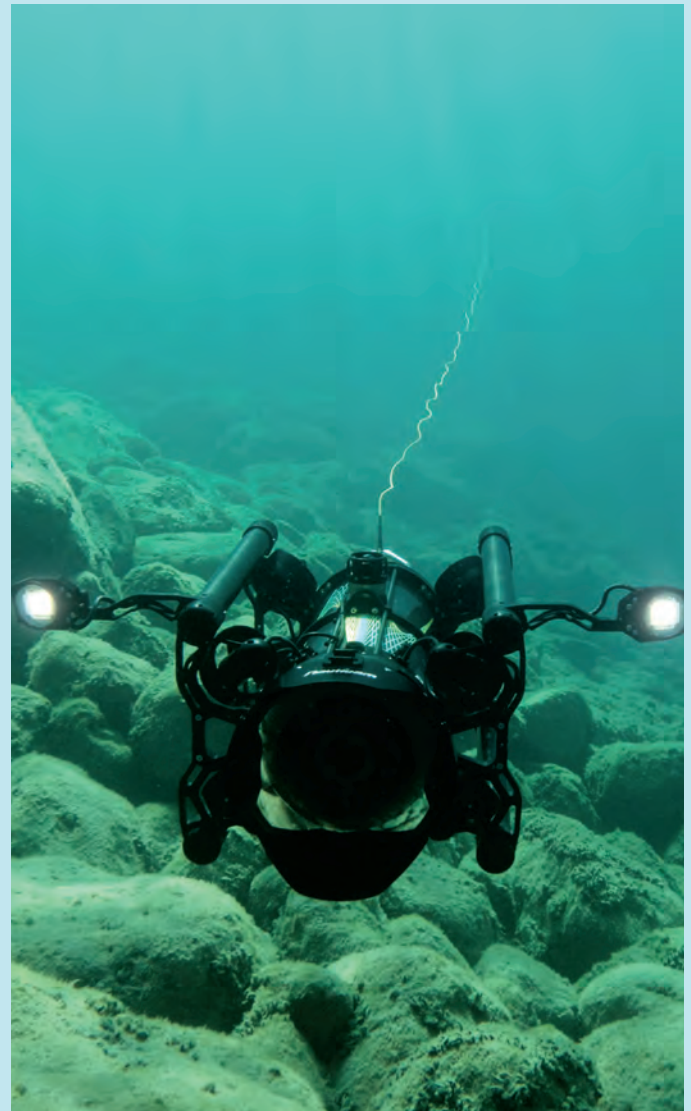
In **Fluid**, popular non-binary comedian Mae Martin unpacks the science of gender. Along the way, this documentary debunks misguided and downright dangerous ideas, showing how and why sexual fluidity exists throughout the living world. **Animal Pride** delves into similar territory, examining the many examples of homosexual behaviour in non-human species, from orcas to albatrosses to Antarctic penguins.

Other productions take us to extraordinary places. Using high-tech underwater drones, **All Too Clear** transports viewers deep into the Great Lakes, where quadrillions of invasive quagga mussels have turned vast areas into biological deserts. Now, a high-stakes bet is underway to restore life to the lakes. And in Egypt, **The Mystery of the Walking Whale** investigates an astounding discovery: the remains of an ancient, four-legged whale species unearthed in the Sahara Desert.

Then there are the mysteries that confront us daily. **Hairy Tales** untangles the research behind balding, going grey, bad hair days and other follicular phenomena. Meanwhile, **Sweat** uncovers fascinating facts about the power of perspiration, from its clammy beginnings in our distant ancestors to the science of a good *shvitz*.



The Mystery of the Walking Whale



All Too Clear



Fluid



# CIPF

## Certified Independent Production Funds

### \$222 million since 1996

The Rogers Group of Funds has been investing in Canada's film and television industry for decades. Our CIPFs are one of the most powerful ways we do that. In 2023, the Cable Network Fund and the Documentary Fund invested more than **\$7.8 million** in **68** productions, adding **186** hours of content for audiences around the world to enjoy.

That brings our total contributions since 1996 to more than **\$222 million**, helping independent creators across the country bring **1,815** productions to the screen.

This marked the final year for the Cable Network Fund. In 2024, the **Rogers Series Fund** will take its place. This new fund will support the production of independently produced Canadian series – drama, unscripted and documentary – destined for television and streaming platforms. To be eligible, applicants are required to have a licence commitment from both a Canadian broadcaster and a streaming service available to Canadian audiences.

<b>2023</b>	<b>Financing</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Programming Hours</b>
Cable Network Fund	\$4,582,879	18	103
Documentary Fund	\$3,262,953	50	83
<b>Total CIPF</b>	<b>\$7,845,832</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>186</b>



Grab a seat and dim the lights. Thanks to Canada’s independent producers, there’s no shortage of great TV to choose from. In 2023, the Rogers Cable Network Fund made curling up on the couch even more enticing by investing **\$4.58 million** in **18 productions**, adding **103 hours** of must-watch television – from hit reality shows like *Bollywed* to the sixth season of the perennially popular *Hudson & Rex*.



### Abroad, Season 3 CC/DV

Longhope Media Inc.

Lucy Stewart, Kevin Wallis, Isabel Kanaan, Wayne Testori, Meghan Hood, P.J. Wilson

Abroad is a half-hour satirical sketch series that focuses on the immigrant experience in Canada. Starring and co-created by Isabel Kanaan, it presents a humorous look at how immigrants deal with living in this country.

ONTARIO  
OMNI



### Bollywed, Season 2 CC/DV

Bollywed Inc./ HeartHat Entertainment Inc.

Sarah Zammit, Carolyn Meland, Gurjeet Mann

Season 2 of Bollywed finds the Singh family with an incredibly challenging year ahead, running their original flagship store and opening a second location.

ONTARIO  
CBC, Documentary Channel



### Bush Wreck Rescue, Season 2 CC/DV

Omnifilm Entertainment Ltd.

Cheryl Binning, Giuliana Bertuzzi, David Gullason, Brian Hamilton, Cathy Schoch, Gabriela Schonbach

This rollicking docu-series follows motorheads in B.C. and Alberta obsessed with turning old, abandoned trucks, specialty vehicles and heavy equipment into custom gems.

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Discovery Canada



### Canada's Got Talent, Season 3 CC/DV

McGillivray Entertainment Inc.

Scott McGillivray, Claire Adams, Angela Jennings, Nanci MacLean, Michela Di Mondo, Amy Blythe-McCuaig

Canada's Got Talent sets out to discover the most unique, skilled, heartwarming and show-stopping performers Canada has to offer.

ONTARIO  
OLN



Photo: Terre Innuue

### Go North! CC/DV

Terre Innuue

Kim O'Bomsawin, Alexandre Bacon, Florent Vollant, Amy Miller

This documentary series celebrates the ingenious and adventurous ways Canada's northernmost Indigenous Peoples continue to reinvent themselves and their ability to travel across the vast and ever-changing landscape they call home.

QUEBEC  
APTN, Knowledge Network



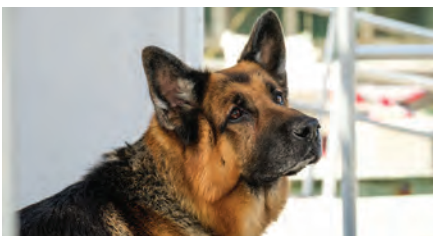
### The Good Canadian CC/DV

Great Stories Productions Inc.

Sarah Jane Flynn, David Paperny, Leena Minifie

The Good Canadian is the first documentary investigation of Canada's vast structurally racist system: part investigation, part real-life horror story, part national reckoning, told through the personal stories of diverse participants in an entrenched, destructive system.

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
Documentary Channel, APTN



### Hudson & Rex, Season 6 CC/DV

Shaftesbury Rex VI Inc. and Pope Rex Season 6 Inc.

Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, Lisa Porter, Liz Levine, Oliver Bachert, Friedemann Goetz, John Reardon, Sherri Davis, Mary Pedersen

Facing a more challenging caseload than ever, Detective Charlie Hudson and his canine partner, Rex, work with their team of specialists to investigate compelling crimes.

ONTARIO / NEWFOUNDLAND  
CityTV



### The Knowing CC/DV

Makwa Creative Inc.

Tanya Talaga, Stuart Coxe, Geoff Siskind

The Knowing is a four-part docu-series investigation into one of the greatest crimes against children in history: the disappearance of 20,000 Indigenous children at Canada's former "Indian Residential Schools."

ONTARIO  
Documentary Channel, CBC



### Murder in Queensville CC/DV

Peacock Alley Entertainment Inc.

Carrie Mudd, Erin Sharp

Murder in Queensville captures the incredible true story of the Christine Jessop case, tracing the timeline of two parallel lives – the man falsely accused of murder and the real killer who evaded suspicion for 36 years.

ONTARIO  
Hollywood Suite



## The Naked Archaeologist Reboot CC/DV

Associated Producers Ltd.

*Simcha Jacobovici, Felix Golubev*

*The Naked Archaeologist* is an irreverent, entertaining and eye-opening journey into the fascinating archaeology of the ancient world. Along the way, new discoveries are made, lost treasures revealed and ancient mysteries uncovered.

**ONTARIO**  
Vision TV, NTD



## Presumed Dead CC/DV

Yap Films Inc.

*Elliott Halpern, Elizabeth Trojian, Tatiana Battaglia, Mauricio Diaz*

Each hour-long episode tells the story of one person driven to fabricate their own death. Stories unfold through in-depth interviews with key participants who tell their own story in their own words.

**ONTARIO**  
Channel Zero



## Stuff the British Stole, Season 2 CC/DV

Cream Productions Inc.

*David Brady, Kate Harrison, Richard Finlayson, Michael Tear, Jude Troy, Alan Erson, Felicity Justrabo, Kate Pappas*

*Stuff the British Stole* investigates the history behind stolen colonial artifacts that line museums across Great Britain and the world.

**ONTARIO**  
Documentary Channel



## Northwoods Survival (working title) CC/DV

Blue Ant Studios

*Tara Elwood, Paul Killback, Matthew Hornburg, Mark Bishop, Donna Luke, Michael Kot, Victor Kushmaniuk*

This observational documentary series follows four diverse characters and groups as they attempt to establish off-the-grid lives in the vast Canadian wilderness.

**ONTARIO**  
APTN



## Project G CC/DV

KOC Productions Inc.

*Annie Bourdeau, Philippe Lamarre, Raphaëlle Huysmans, Pablo Salzman, Melissa Malkin*

A rising cohort of young white men are embracing white nationalism and challenging perceived “woke” culture. Surprisingly, many from liberal backgrounds join in. *Project G* explores this through one compelling case.

**QUEBEC**  
CBC



## Ocean Warriors: Mission Ready, Season 2 CC/DV

Kwassen Productions Inc.

*Steve Sxwithul'twx, Martin de Valk*

*Ocean Warriors* is about hope and heroism and sometimes tragedy. It weaves together the rescue stories of the Coastal Nations Coast Guard Auxiliary (CNCGA) with the distinctive culture and local traditions of their Indigenous communities.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
APTN, CHEK



## Sounds Black, Part 2 CC/DV

Circle Blue Entertainment

*Amos Adetuyi, Floyd Kane*

*Sounds Black, Part 2* is a premium documentary series directed by award-winning filmmaker Cazhhmere tracing the origins and impact of Black music in Canada from its tangled diasporic roots to its international dominance.

**ONTARIO**  
History



## Todd Talbot's Passive House CC/DV

Passive House Productions Season 1 Inc.

*Shel Piercy, Theresa Piercy, Todd Talbot*

Follow Todd Talbot as he constructs a net-zero cottage on Okanagan Lake. The show takes a turn when the nearly completed home is devoured by wildfires in the summer of 2023.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Blue Ant

For 23 years, the Rogers Cable Network Fund has proudly supported Canadian independent production.





Canada's documentarians delve into a host of fascinating questions, big and small. For example, what drives so many young men to take anabolic steroids? How did a multi-billion-dollar international trading scam rob thousands of people of their life savings? Why do we sweat? And the Rogers Documentary Fund helps them share what they discover with curious audiences around the world. In 2023, that meant providing **\$3.26 million** to bring **50 productions** to life.



### The 5 Billion Dollar Scam CC/DV

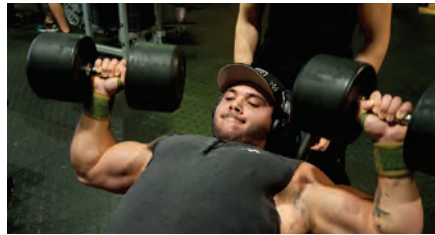
Intuitive Pictures Productions Inc. /  
Medalia Productions

*Ina Fichman, Hilla Medalia*

*The 5 Billion Dollar Scam* dives into the world of binary options trading scams – a multi-billion-dollar “investment” industry that promised quick and easy profits but ultimately robbed thousands of their life savings.

**QUEBEC**

CBC, Documentary Channel, yes (Israel)



### Adonis CC/DV

Films Extérieur Jour inc.

*Amélie Lambert Bouchard, Elodie Pollet,  
Jérémie Battaglia*

In the midst of general indifference, a public health crisis is unfolding: more and more young men are taking anabolic steroids to achieve the body of their dreams.

**QUEBEC**

Télé-Québec



### All Too Clear CC/DV

Inspired Planet Ideas Inc.

*Yvonne Drebert, Zach Melnick*

Quadrillions of invasive mussels are re-engineering the Great Lakes at a scale not seen since the glaciers. Scientists race to control the invaders but discover the clearer waters may be an opportunity to restore an ancient ecosystem.

**ONTARIO**

TVO



Photo: Santiago Bertolino

### Amazonie, à la rencontre des gardiens et des gardiennes de la forêt CC/DV

Le Studio Via le monde Inc.

*Daniel Bertolino, Catherine Viau*

Santiago Bertolino and Marie-Josée Béliveau take us to the heart of Amazon’s reality, where the communities are desperately striving to safeguard what remains of their lands.

**QUEBEC**

Les Films du 3 mars



Photo: Renaud De Repentigny

### Anticosti, l’école du bonheur? CC/DV

CC/DV

Productions Triangle Inc.

*Pauline Voisard*

Journey to the heart of nature, between sea and forest, at École St-Joseph de Port-Menier. A unique encounter with the 23 students, the school team, the parents and the community, over the course of a year.

**QUEBEC**

SRC, RDI



### Antidiva: The Carole Pope Confessions CC/DV

Gay Agenda Inc.

*Bill Taylor, Michelle Mama, Allison Grace*

Queer rock legend Carole Pope rides the highs and lows of being a working 78-year-old musician.

**ONTARIO**

Documentary Channel



### The Art of Adventure CC/DV

Grizzly Films Inc.

*Alison Reid, Anne Innis Dagg, Mary Dagg*

Renowned wildlife artist Robert Bateman and biologist Bristol Foster embarked on a globe-trotting adventure in a Land Rover named the Grizzly Torque. Decades later, its rediscovery sparks a magical journey back through time, fusing art, science and environmental activism.

**ONTARIO**

Hollywood Suite



Photo: Fred Schiffer

### Arthur Erickson: The Concrete Poet CC/DV

House Special Productions Inc.

*Leah Mallen, Ryan Mah, Danny Berish*

This film follows the rise and fall of Arthur Erickson – the architect, the socialite, the family man – and goes beyond the grand structures, uncovering the man behind the story and the relationships that shaped his fascinating life.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Knowledge Network



### Ballad for Judi CC/DV

Ballad for Judi Production Ltd.

*Brishkay Ahmed, Baljit Sangra*

The unwitting trailblazer who, as a Punjabi-Black singer and partner of guitarist Lenny Breau, steps on jazz stages during tumultuous times and leaves a musical imprint to be discovered.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Knowledge Network



### Beautiful CC/DV

Proximity Films

Howard Fraiberg, Aline Robichaud, Phyllis Ellis

*Beautiful* rips up the rotten roots of the beauty and social media industry, while following the Meta litigation and internationally diverse celebrities and experts fighting to save future generations.

**ONTARIO**

Documentary Channel



### Behind Glass CC/DV

Chromatic Dreams Films Inc.

Michael Khan

*Behind Glass* follows the lives of six individuals from across the Yukon Territory and examines what factors have influenced their belief systems over time. The film explores their beliefs, their fears and the shifting role of religion in society.

**YUKON**

Northwestel TV



### The Birdman of Cooper Island

CC/DV

Primitive Entertainment Inc.

Michael McMahon, Kevin McMahon

George Divoky has devoted 50 years to studying an Arctic seabird colony. For half that time he's known the colony was doomed, but he cheerfully returns every year, curious to see how their story ends.

**ONTARIO**

TVO



### Blue Rodeo: Lost Together CC/DV

Cream Productions Inc.

David Brady, Kate Harrison, Paul Johnson, Corey Russell, Francine DiBacco

Blue Rodeo has been one of Canada's most vital groups, quietly selling millions of records while filling every conceivable venue across the country. *Lost Together* is the feature-length documentary that tells their extraordinary tale.

**ONTARIO**

Documentary Channel



### Brother (working title) CC/DV

How to Fight for Justice Films Inc.

Eric Pedicelli

Yusuf Faqiri pursues justice for his brother Soleiman, who died in prison after his arrest during a schizophrenic episode. Shocking testimony and security camera footage during the coroner's inquest result in an unexpected verdict.

**ONTARIO**

CBC



### Choix de familles CC/DV

MC2 Communication Média

Jean-Simon Chartier

Soloparentalité ou couple homosexuel intégrant un tiers géniteur, les projets familiaux atypiques se multiplient, mais sont confrontés à de nombreux obstacles. À travers différentes quêtes, *Choix de familles* porte un regard humain sur la transformation du concept de la famille.

**QUEBEC**

SRC



### Dark Side of the Metaverse CC/DV

Fathom Film Group

Erica Leendertse, Danielle Cole, Ann Shin

When Alex and friends dive into Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite, they discover a dark side of the metaverse – sexual predators, Nazis and more. Alex and friends investigate a sexual predator, sparking a global conversation about child safety across the metaverse.

**ONTARIO**

TVO



### Le déterreur de secrets CC/DV

Pimiento Médias Inc.

Orlando Arriagada, Paola Arriagada-Nunez, Maria Elena Wood, Maximiliano Scheleff

This documentary tells the story of Peter Kornbluh, an American moved by the sadness of a classmate following Chile's 1973 coup d'état to ask himself a question that shaped his life: "What is my country capable of?"

**QUEBEC**

Nat'y TV



### Drogues: Vérités et conséquences CC/DV

Saturne 5 inc.

Pierre-Yves Lord, Carlos Soldevila

La série documentaire s'intéresse aux psychotropes consommés au Canada, à ses enjeux et à la place qu'ils occupent à l'intérieur de la société. L'objectif est de faire la lumière sur les incongruités qui persistent vis-à-vis du statut des drogues.

**QUEBEC**

SRC



**Ending It All** CC/DV

52 Media Inc.

*David York, Kate Vollum, Chanda Chevannes*

*Ending It All* is a film about how suicide has touched my life and the lives of those around me. It tells the stories of these suicide victims, the lives they led and the impact they had on those they left behind.

**ONTARIO**  
NFB.ca



**Exclusion: A Centenary of Silence** CC/DV

Centenary of Silence Productions Inc.

*Wei Hu, Craig Thompson*

*Exclusion* traces the lives and legacy of two indomitable women, one in Canada and one in China, who fought for the future of all Chinese-Canadian families during the period of exclusion from 1923-1947.

**ONTARIO**  
Knowledge Network, Telus, OMNI



**Fluid** CC/DV

Kensington Communications

*Robert Lang*

Popular non-binary Canadian comedian and TV sitcom creator Mae Martin explores the science of gender and sexual fluidity, debunking dangerous zombie science and introducing viewers to recent fascinating breakthroughs.

**ONTARIO**  
CBC



**Gagged** CC/DV

1000696527 Ontario Inc. & 9503-3247 Québec Inc.

*Tara Jan, Nathalie Bibeau, Andrea Stewart*

Non-disclosure agreements were invented to protect trade secrets, but they've become the linchpin in a pattern of abuse and silence. *Gagged* is the story of how that happened and the two women risking everything to break the cycle.

**ONTARIO / QUEBEC**  
TVO



Photo: Agata De Santis

**Goddess of Slide** CC/DV

Soul Flicker Films, Inc.

*Alfonso Maiorana, Agata De Santis*

*Goddess of Slide* tells the forgotten story of Ellen McIlwaine, a Canadian musician who fought for her right to play the slide guitar. An intimate look at a pioneer performer who deserves a place in music history.

**QUEBEC**  
Documentary Channel



**The Good Canadian** CC/DV

Great Stories Productions Inc.

*Sarah Jane Flynn, David Paperny, Leena Minifie*

*The Good Canadian* is the first documentary investigation of Canada's vast structurally racist system: part investigation, part real-life horror story, part national reckoning, told through the personal stories of diverse participants in an entrenched, destructive system.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Documentary Channel, APTN



**Exclusion: A Centenary of Silence**

## L'homme dans le miroir



### L'homme dans le miroir (titre de travail) CC/DV

Les Productions Avanti-Toast Inc.

*Ian Quenneville, Patricia Blais, Monique Lamoureux*

*L'homme dans le miroir* nous transporte dans l'univers réel et illusoire d'un jeune homme passionné et talentueux dont la fragilité résonne avec celle de son idole Michael Jackson.

QUEBEC  
TVA



### Jews of Arab Lands – The Forgotten Expulsion CC/DV

Vigilance Productions Inc.

*Martin Himel, Moses Znaimer, Olivia Ward*

Jews lived throughout the Middle East for 3,000 years. They were expelled from Arab lands in 1948. We profile these forgotten refugees. We examine this expulsion and follow activists who try to salvage priceless properties.

ONTARIO  
Vision TV



### Hope Makers – Pisuwin CC/DV

Hamel Street Productions Inc.

*François Savoie*

Ukrainian-Canadian choreographer Igor Dobrovolskiy and multi-disciplinary artist Possesom Paul of Sitansisk First Nation find hope for their respective communities through the creation of "Pisuwin," an original production that blends Indigenous storytelling and ballet.

NEW BRUNSWICK  
CBC



### Le huitième étage, jour de révolte CC/DV

Faits Divers Média

*Pedro Ruiz, Arantza Maldonado Trejo*

Un film entre réalité et démesure. Une œuvre hybride mélangeant autobiographie et fiction, à la façon des autofictions littéraires, sur l'un des personnages les plus singuliers du Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ) : Jacques Lanctôt.

QUEBEC  
TVA



Photo: Jesse Winter

### King Arthur's Night CC/DV

Let's Get The Grail Productions Inc.

*John Bolton, Virginia K. Prasad, James Long, Joan McNeil, Marcus Youssef, Niall McNeil, Veda Hille, Ellen Curham, Les Lukacs*

This genre-defying documentary film is inspired by a medieval musical play created by a company of artists living with and without Down syndrome. Think *Game of Thrones* meets *Crip Camp*, but with songs.

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
AMI



### Koutkekout CC/DV

Quatre par Quatre Films and Loaded Pictures

*Joseph Hillel, Sergio Kirby*

In a country where violence and poverty regularly make the headlines, young Haitians cling to their dreams. They talk about theatre and the importance of sharing it for future generations.

QUEBEC  
Natyf TV



### Lhasa CC/DV

Metafilms Inc.

*Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre, Nancy Grant, Sylvain Corbeil, Julia Rosenberg*

A feature documentary on the work, life and artistic vision of Lhasa de Sela, an internationally celebrated singer-songwriter who tragically died at the age of 37, leaving behind three award-winning albums.

**QUEBEC**

Les Films du 3 Mars



### Michel Brault, l'instinct de vue CC/DV

CC/DV

Corporation de développement et de production ACPAV inc.

*Robert Lacerte, Suzanna Wojciechowska, Pierre-Mathieu Fortin, Nathalie Cloutier*

The films of Michel Brault, one of the most influential creators of Canadian cinema, have had a lasting impact on the world's greatest filmmakers, from Jean Rouch to Terrence Malick.

**QUEBEC**

ONF.ca



Photo: Bill Muster

### Monkey on a Stick CC/DV

Sphere Productions 4 Inc.

*Bruno Dubé, Marlo Miazga, Jennifer Kawaja, Jason Lapeyre*

*Monkey on a Stick* is a documentary adaptation of the bestselling book that exposed the rise and fall of the Hare Krishna movement in the West. The film will immerse the audience inside this "stranger than fiction" story.

**ONTARIO**

Hollywood Suite, Bell Media Inc.



### The Mystery of the Walking Whale CC/DV

Rezolution Pictures (WW) Inc.

*Philippe Chabot, Bella Falk, Alan Handel, Catherine Bainbridge, David Dugan*

Sarika Cullis-Suzuki joins a top team of paleontologists on a search for answers to one of the biggest mysteries of evolution: how did four-legged land mammals evolve into whales?

**QUEBEC**

CBC



### Paid in Full: The Battle for Payback CC/DV

Pink Towel Canada Inc. and Zinc Television Limited London

*Idris Elba, Julie Bristow, Margot Daley, Julia Nunes, Sabrina Elba, Greg Sanderson*

*Paid in Full* explores how the biggest Black artists of today and yesterday are taking back ownership of the music they created.

**ONTARIO**

CBC, BBC



### La plaque tournante CC/DV

Melki Films Productions inc.

*Viveka Melki, Debra Kouri*

Montréal est le centre de la traite des personnes à des fins sexuelles au Canada; il est encore possible de corriger les tracés, pourvu que nous sachions reconnaître les profonds sillons que tracent le racisme, la langue, et la pauvreté.

**QUEBEC**

SRC, RDI



### Le pouvoir fantôme CC/DV

9488-5761 Québec Inc.

*Geneviève Gélinas, Elisabeth Harvey, Zoé Beaudry, Simon Michaud*

This feature-length documentary takes us behind the scenes of Quebec's 1972 Commission of Inquiry on Organized Crime and the impacts on organized crime, political party financing and the justice system that are still relevant today.

**QUEBEC**

Historia



### Relationship Remix CC/DV

Black Film Space Manitoba

*Lino Martinez Jr., Chris Sharpe*

This micro-documentary follows three interracial married couples from Manitoba: the Martinezes (Nicaraguan/Jamaican), the Sharpes (Jamaican/Pakistani), and the Groveses (Ukrainian/Trinidadian). We dive deep into their lives and learn about the ins and outs of daily life in a mixed relationship.

**MANITOBA**

CBC



### Saving the Animals of Ukraine (working title) CC/DV

Yap Films Inc. / VSE SAM LLC (Ukraine)

*Elliott Halpern, Elizabeth Trojjan, Anton Ptushkin, Zoia Soshenko*

This documentary tells the story of the fate of animals during Russia's war against Ukraine, as everyday heroes risk their lives to save innocent pets, farm animals, zoo animals and wildlife from becoming casualties.

**ONTARIO**

CBC Gem, PBS Nature



### Singhs in the Ring CC/DV

Fennessey Films Inc.

*Shane Fennessey, Adam Scorgie, Sunny Sidhu, Patricia Isaac, Pollyanna Hardwicke-Brown*

This feature documentary is based on the wildly colourful, outrageously animated, pile-driving phenomenon of the Singh wrestling dynasty.

**ALBERTA**

Bell Media Inc.



### Sweat CC/DV

Sweaty Productions Inc.

*Andrew Nisker, Nadia Sandhu, Iain Robinson*

Join us in a deep dive into the most unique thermoregulation system on the planet. From its clammy beginnings in our distant ancestors to the taboos it stirs today, we uncover everything about our soggy ways and learn to respect and admire ... Sweat!

**ONTARIO**

CBC



### The Theft CC/DV

1000626276 Ontario Inc.

*Ed Barreveld, Aisha Jamal*

*The Theft* addresses the contemporary debate whether Western museums should return looted artifacts to the countries they were taken from.

**ONTARIO**

TVO



### Transplant Stories CC/DV

Omnifilm Entertainment Ltd.

*Giuliana Bertuzzi, David Gullason, Cathy Schoch, Brian Hamilton, Gabriela Schonbach*

This four-part documentary series follows people awaiting and undergoing urgent, life-saving organ transplants in B.C. We'll meet hopeful patients and witness remarkable professionals pulling off medical miracles.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Knowledge Network



### Turtle Island Rap CC/DV

T.I. Rap Inc.

*Alexandra Lazarowich, Jessica Ford, Anupa Mistry, Rodrigo Bascuñán, Darby Wheeler*

Indigenous hip-hop is cultural sovereignty. The artists featured in *Turtle Island Rap* offer ideas for the future of Indigeneity, where the impact of colonialism, race, gender, and Black-Indigenous relations interconnect and play out in the music.

**ONTARIO**

Bell Media Inc. (Crave)



### Une sur trois CC/DV

Picbois Productions Inc.

*Marie-Pierre Corriveau, Karine Dubois*

*One in Three* dives into the reality of front-line workers who provide care and are committed to protecting the right and access to safe abortions in Canada.

**QUEBEC**

SRC



### Where the Cottonwoods Grow CC/DV

Hildebrand Productions Inc.

*Dale Hildebrand, Jil Amadio*

In the 1870s a wave of Mennonites fled Imperial Russia in search of the promised land – a journey that would shape their destinies, define their identities and leave an indelible mark on the pages of history.

**ONTARIO**

Apna DesiTV



### Wildfire CC/DV

Burning Films Inc.

*Simon Shave, Kevin Eastwood*

*Wildfire* is an immersive five-part documentary series that will parachute viewers onto the fireline and introduce them to the individuals fighting today's mega fires during the worst fire season in Canadian history: the summer of 2023.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Knowledge Network



### Without Precedent: The Supreme Life of Rosalie Abella CC/DV

Melbar Entertainment Group

*Mark Selby, Barry Avrich, Jonas Prince*

This documentary portrait of Justice Abella examines what inspired her and what continues to drive her resolute commitment to make a difference, as well as her family beginnings, her meteoric career and her enduring marriage.

**ONTARIO**

CBC

# Creative BC + Rogers Documentary and Factual Development Fund

This unique collaboration brings together the Rogers Group of Funds and a provincial partner – Creative BC – to help B.C.-made documentaries and factual series get off the ground. We fund research, treatment development, pitch development and trailers, supporting early-stage project development before broadcaster or streaming services buy in. In 2023/24, we put the focus on climate change, environmental issues and sustainability, contributing **\$195,000** to **13 productions** about these crucial topics.

## **Bear Mountain**

Joe Kennedy

## **Finding Ogopogo**

Kim Kaufman

## **Thin Ice**

Joseph Boutilier

## **Bone, Stone & Fire**

Carey Newman

## **Good Neighbours**

Cathy Schoch

## **The Urban Forest**

Mark Bradley

## **Divide and Conquer: A Modern Playbook**

Deirdre Leowinata

## **Living Buildings**

Sammie Astaneh

## **When Rain Becomes Fire**

Jennifer Abbot

## **Eco Elegance – Fashioning a sustainable identity a shifting world**

Lois Arop

## **Our Ocean Table**

Joanna Wong

## **Wild Canadian Waters**

Lynn Fuhr

## **'styel'ép: coming of age in the climate crisis**

Jessica Hallenbeck



# Rogers Indigenous Film Fund Program

We're proud to collaborate with Creative BC to amplify the voices and stories of Indigenous filmmakers through the million-dollar Rogers Indigenous Film Fund Program. Launched in 2021, this program provides grants of up to **\$20,000** to support the early development of projects, as well as professional development workshops, coaching and mentorship services. In 2023, **11 Indigenous storytellers** in B.C. received funding totalling **\$202,364**.

## Choices/Shattered Pieces

(working title)

Linda St. Pierre

## Just for Laughs?

(working title)

Brian Majore

## So You Want To Be a Pretendian?

Kaitlyn Redcrow

## Conquest

Norman Coyne

## Know Who You Are; Know Where You Come From

Debra Sparrow

## The Supernaturals

Patrick Shannon

## Game Bone

Gordon Loverin

## The Queen of East Van

Brenda Lynn Prince

## The Usual Elders

A.W. Hopkins

## Holy Angels

Jaysen Cardinal Villeneuve

## Riel

Rob Labas

# Rogers-Black Screen Office Development Fund

Launched by the Black Screen Office – in partnership with the Rogers Group of Funds and the Canadian Independent Screen Fund – this program supports diversity in storytelling. The **\$750,000 initiative** provides resources and guidance to Black and People of Colour writers during the entire writing process, helping them develop scripted or documentary content for television. In 2023, we distributed **\$210,545** to **13 creators** to move their big ideas from rough drafts to pitch-ready projects. And we'll continue to create impact going forward, thanks to our **\$900,000** multi-year renewal of the fund.

## *Scripted*

### **Deyla**

Zaki Farow

### **The Fix**

Adnan Khan

### **Halmoni**

Kimura Byol Lemoine

### **Open Casket**

Lindsey Addawoo

### **Open for Discussion**

Brishkay Ahmed

## **Sciences Sales**

Ranang Rousseau

### **TONI + TONY**

Ian Steaman

### **Unmatched**

Jane McLean-Guerra

### **Woke Machine**

Sandy Hudson

## *Documentary*

### **Brown Envelope**

Ian Bawa

### **The Calamansi Tree**

Shasha Nakhai

### **Qui seras-tu ?**

Lamia Chraibi

### **Sundance Harvest**

Aicha Diop

For producers, landing a financing deal is a big win. But while they wait for those dollars to arrive, production costs continue to rack up. Rogers Telefund fills the gap by providing Canadian producers with low-interest bridge loans. And as those are repaid, other projects get funded. In 2023, the revolving program provided **\$15.6 million** to **22 projects**, spanning everything from preschool programming to on-the-ground coverage of Russia at war.



### All the Lost Ones

Whimper Productions Inc.

*Gabriel Napora, Yas Taalat, Mackenzie Donaldson, Chantal Kemp, David Phillips, Ben Lu, Cody Sparshu*

**ONTARIO**  
Paramount+



### Animal Pride: Nature's Coming Out Story

Animal Pride Productions Inc.

*Niobe Thompson, Carolyn Whittaker*

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
CBC, Documentary Channel



### Backspot

Bittersweet Productions Ltd.

*Elliot Page, Matt Jordan Smith, John Davidson, Katisha Shaw, Martin Katz, D.W. Waterson, Devery Jacobs, Alona Metzger*

**ONTARIO**  
CBC, Bell/Crave



### Bush Wreck Rescue, Season 2

Omnifilm Entertainment Ltd.

*Cheryl Binning, Giuliana Bertuzzi, David Gullason, Brian Hamilton, Cathy Schoch, Gabriela Schonbach*

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Discovery Canada



### Can I Get A Witness?

CIGAW Productions Ltd.

*Ann Marie Fleming, Hayden Wazelle, Ruth Vincent, Raymond Massey*

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Bell/Crave



### Cub Camp, Season 1

Merit Motion Pictures Inc.

*Merit Jensen Carr, Shereen Jerrett, Alexa Rosentreter*

**MANITOBA**  
Blue Ant Media, Love Nature



### FreeUp! Emancipation Day 2023

2023 FU! Productions Inc.

*Ngozi Paul, Sara Schwartz Geller, L'Oqenz, Justin Lovell, Michael LeBlanc*

**ONTARIO**  
CBC



Cub Camp

# I Am the Magpie River



## Hairy Tales

In The Vault Productions Inc.  
*Leora Eisen, Jackie Carlos*  
**ONTARIO**  
CBC



## Happy Place, Season 1

Happy Penny Productions Inc.  
*Eric Hogan, Tara Hungerford, Tracey Mack*  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
TVO



## Horse Warriors, Season 1

Horse Warriors S1 Inc.  
*Dominique Keller, Neil Grah*  
**ALBERTA**  
APTN



## Hudson & Rex, Season 6

Shaftesbury Rex VI Inc. and  
Pope Rex Season 6 Inc.  
*Christina Jennings, Scott Garvie, Lisa  
Porter, Liz Levine, Oliver Bachert,  
Friedemann Goetz, John Reardon, Sherri  
Davis, Mary Pedersen*  
**ONTARIO / NEWFOUNDLAND**  
CityTV



## I Am the Magpie River

1000244925 Ontario Inc. and  
Terre Innue Productions Inc.  
*Susan Fleming, Kim O'Bomsawin*  
**ONTARIO / QUEBEC**  
CBC, Documentary Channel, Télé-Québec, ZDF,  
ARTE



## Katiba Banat: Sisters in Arms

Adhel Productions Inc.  
*Adhel Arop, Lynn Booth, Kerri Coombs*  
**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Rogers Media

Photo: Noel Araquel





### Ocean Warriors: Mission Ready, Season 2

Kwassen Productions Inc.  
*Steve Sxwithul'twx, Martin de Valk*

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
APTN, CHEK TV



### Play It Loud!

1000374247 Ontario Inc.  
*Clement Virgo, Andrew Munger, Jane Jankovic, Colette Vosberg*

**ONTARIO**  
TVO, Knowledge Network



### Russians at War

Raja Pictures Inc. / Capa Presse  
*Cornelia Principe, Anastasia Trofimova, Sally Blake, Philippe Levasseur*

**ONTARIO**  
TVO, ARTE



### Saints and Warriors

Ball Is Life Entertainment Inc.  
*Michael Tanko Grand, Patrick Shannon, Vinay Virmani, Scott Moore*

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Bell Media Inc.



### Skeet

Skeet Pictures Inc.  
*Mary Sexton, Nikolas Sexton*  
**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR**



### Sweet Summer Pow Wow

OCM Pow Wow Films Inc.  
*Darrell Dennis, Isaiah Harris, Chuck Seymour, Harold C. Joe, Leslie D. Bland*

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Bell/Crave, Hollywood Suite, CHEK TV



### s-yéwyáw: Awaken

Elders' Film Inc.  
*Liz Marshall, Ecko Aleck, Alfonso Salinas, Charlene SanJenko*

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
TELUS originals



### This Film Is Garbage

Garbage Man Productions Inc.  
*Andrew Nisker, Nadia Sandhu*

**ONTARIO**  
TVO, Hollywood Suite



### Transplant Stories

Omnifilm Entertainment Ltd.  
*Giuliana Bertuzzi, David Gullason, Cathy Schoch, Brian Hamilton, Gabriela Schonbach*

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
Knowledge Network

# 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**, CHAIR (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 joined the Board of Directors of Rogers Communications in 2021.

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.



**ROSEMARY SADLIER** O.Ont. (Order of Ontario) (independent) is a social justice advocate, researcher, writer, consultant, international speaker on Black History, anti-racism and women's issues. She led the Ontario Black History Society for 22

years and was the driving force of the commemoration of February as Black History Month at all levels of government. She secured August 1st as Emancipation Day municipally in 1995, provincially in 2008 and nationally in 2021. She also saw to the creation of a national day and a bust in Queen's Park for the Hon. Lincoln Alexander.

Dr. Sadlier has given deputations to the UN rapporteur on race relations and has provided consultation to governments, museums, broadcasters and heritage conferences. She was on the board of Obsidian Theatre, is on the board of Roseneath Theatre and has served as historical/cultural consultant on film scripts and productions. Dr. Sadlier has written seven books on African Canadian history and has contributed to curricula, national exhibits and publications. Dr. Sadlier is dedicated to social justice and seeks to educate and empower others using the frame of Black History.





**KAREN TANAKA** (independent) is a business development advisor with many years of experience in technology, media and partnerships. With a focus on designing systems for sustainable growth and enduring impact, Ms. Tanaka applies her insights across diverse sectors. Most recently, Ms. Tanaka leveraged her passion for community building as the Chief Operating Officer of the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation. Under her leadership, the Chinatown Foundation successfully launched various programs, notably the acclaimed Chinatown Storytelling Centre – a community hub dedicated to the cultural revitalization of Vancouver’s historic Chinatown through the power of storytelling.

Prior to joining the Chinatown Foundation, Ms. Tanaka held senior leadership roles at Immersive Media, Xerox and Centrinity. She completed the Directors Education Program at the Rotman School of Management.

Ms. Tanaka is the vice-chair of the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia and chair of the Society’s governance and human resources committee. She serves on the 58 West Hastings Committee, a social housing project in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside developed by the Vancouver Chinatown Foundation.



**SUSAN WHEELER** is Vice-President, Distribution and Regulatory for Rogers’ Media division and has worked in Canadian broadcasting for over 20 years. Susan’s experience and expertise in broadcast regulation, combined with her strong legal and business background, ensure an informed perspective on issues of cultural policy and content financing and monetization across both the audio and audio-visual sectors.

Susan has held a number of director and executive board member positions in the cultural sector, including the Director and Chair of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB); the Canadian Broadcasters Rights Agency (CBRA), a copyright collective for private broadcasters; and music funding agency the Foundation to Assist Canadian Talent on Recordings (FACTOR). Most recently, she has joined the boards of the Rogers Group of Funds and the Polaris Music Prize, where she is delighted to have the opportunity to support Canadian and Indigenous film and television creators and music artists.

## French Advisory Committee



**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 a stellar career in advertising as a producer (Films 24) and head of production (Cossette Communication Marketing), **NICOLE GIROUX** was reading the script of Léo

for Jean-Claude Lauzon when she realized the creative dimension was her calling! She freelanced as a script consultant before joining Telefilm Canada in 1997 as content analyst for the feature film and television units. The following year she was named head of feature films at the Montreal office. In 2000 she went back to freelancing as a creative content specialist. With 30+ years of working with leading producers and scriptwriters, she has also undertaken specific mandates for financial partners Telefilm, SODEC and Radio-Canada. Nicole has extensive experience in evaluating projects based on their presentation and creative team.

# Discoverability and promotion

The Rogers Group of Funds doesn't just help producers bring their stories to life onscreen. We also help them find the audiences they richly deserve. Whether it's funding high-profile prizes or investing in industry events, we strive to put Canadian television and film at the top of everyone's watch list.

In 2023, we funded prizes at these 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 Association Awards** – funding of \$120,000 for the winner and runners-up of the “Rogers Best Canadian Film Award”
- **Vancouver International Film Festival** – funding of a \$15,000 prize for “Best Canadian Documentary”

We also provided grants and sponsorships to the following events and organizations:

- **Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television**
- **Banff World Media Festival**
- **Canadian Media Producers Association** (annual Prime Time in Ottawa conference)
- **Content Canada**
- **Doc Institute**
- **DOXA Documentary Film Festival**
- **Factual West**
- **Hot Docs**
- **Prix Gémeaux**
- **Reelworld Film Festival**
- **RIDM** (Les Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal)
- **Rogers-DOC Luminary Award**
- **St. John's International Women's Film Festival**
- **Talking Stick Festival**
- **Toronto Film Critics Awards**
- **VIFF** (Vancouver International Film Festival)



# Financial commitments

Certified Independent Production Funds 2023	Rogers Documentary Fund	Rogers Cable Network Fund
Number of applications received and funded by Rogers	120/50	44/18
Regional project commitments	\$501,830	\$1,388,879
Indigenous-language project commitments	\$0	\$663,879
Third-language project commitments	\$50,000	\$100,000
Commitments to English-language projects produced within Quebec	\$400,000	\$200,000
Commitments to French-language projects produced outside Quebec	\$0	N/A
English-language project commitments	\$2,226,830	\$4,582,879
French-language project commitments	\$1,036,123	N/A

## Rogers Cable Network and Documentary 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:

### Both funds:

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

### Rogers Documentary Fund only:

- 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.

# Financial Statements of Rogers Documentary and Cable Network Fund

And Independent Auditor's Report thereon  
Year ended December 31, 2023



**KPMG LLP**

Bay Adelaide Centre  
333 Bay Street, Suite 4600  
Toronto, ON M5H 2S5  
Canada  
Telephone 416 777 8500  
Fax 416 777 8818

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S 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, 2023
- 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, 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 auditor's 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.

### ***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 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.



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- 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP' with a horizontal line underneath.

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Toronto, Canada

March 27, 2024

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 17,239,568	\$ 18,436,757
Harmonized sales tax receivable (note 5)	125,519	494,880
	<u>\$ 17,365,087</u>	<u>\$ 18,931,637</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Programming contribution commitments	9,899,066	11,368,304
Due to Rogers Telefund (note 4)	20,843	20,182
	<u>9,954,909</u>	<u>11,423,486</u>
Net assets:		
Rogers Documentary Fund	660,574	286,139
Rogers Cable Network Fund	6,749,604	7,222,012
	<u>7,410,178</u>	<u>7,508,151</u>
	<u>\$ 17,365,087</u>	<u>\$ 18,931,637</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair, Board of Directors



# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

## Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Revenue:		
Contributions from Rogers Communications Canada Inc.	\$ 6,276,267	\$ 6,701,705
Recoveries from programming and productions	1,505,068	1,385,026
Investment	878,176	352,631
Interest income received from CRA	13,407	—
	<u>8,672,918</u>	<u>8,439,362</u>
Expenditures:		
Programming contribution commitments	8,234,102	9,249,040
General and administrative	536,789	503,933
	<u>8,770,891</u>	<u>9,752,973</u>
Excess of expenditures over revenue	<u>\$ (97,973)</u>	<u>\$ (1,313,611)</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

## ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

### Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

			2023		2022	
	Rogers Documentary Fund	Rogers Cable Network Fund	Total	Total	Total	Total
Net assets, beginning of year	\$ 286,139	\$ 7,222,012	\$ 7,508,151	\$ 8,821,762		
Excess of (expenditures over revenue) revenue over expenditures	374,435	(472,408)	(97,973)	(1,313,611)		
Net assets, end of year	\$ 660,574	\$ 6,749,604	\$ 7,410,178	\$ 7,508,151		

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

## Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended December 31, 2023, with comparative information for 2022

	2023	2022
Cash flows used in operating activities:		
Excess of expenditures over revenue	\$ (97,973)	\$ (1,313,611)
Change in non-cash operating working capital:		
Increase (decrease) in harmonized sales tax receivable	369,361	(192,749)
Increase (decrease) in programming contribution commitments	(1,469,238)	21,837
Increase in due to Rogers Telefund	661	475
Increase in accrued liabilities	-	3,000
Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	(1,197,189)	(1,481,048)
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	18,436,757	19,917,805
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 17,239,568	\$ 18,436,757

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2023

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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% of its gross broadcasting revenues.

## 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, 2023

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## 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 2023, an aggregate of \$700,730 (2022 - \$877,014) of adjustments was recorded to decrease programming contribution commitments initially established in prior years.

Also, in accordance with CRTC broadcasting policy 2016-343, the Fund committed \$314,000 (2022 - \$328,500) 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. During 2023, an aggregate of \$5,000 (2022 - \$18,500) was recorded to decrease the Promotion and Discoverability initially established due to the cancellation of one program only.

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

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## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

In 2023 the second instalment of \$250,000 for "The Rogers Indigenous Filmmakers Fund" in association with Creative BC was paid. The purpose of this fund, for which Rogers agreed to contribute \$250,000 each year for a period of four years, is to provide direct access to script development funding to Indigenous creators. The Fund will also provide Indigenous storytellers the opportunity to develop scripted or unscripted content in English and/or French for the domestic and international market. One hundred percent (100%) of the annual proceeds of the Fund will be allocated to Indigenous content creators by way of grant less an annual administration fee. Creative BC shall be responsible for the administration of the Fund which includes managing the application process, oversee the selection process and administer the disbursements of the grants, in doing so Creative BC is entitled to an annual administrative fee of \$37,500.

Also, in 2023 Rogers paid the second and final instalment of the extended commitment to the "Documentary and Factual Development Fund" also in association with Creative BC \$200,000 (2022 - \$200,000) . The purpose of this Fund was to support domestic creators in British Columbia of documentaries, series and factual series. In doing so, Rogers increased its investment in the province while helping to grow opportunity for B.C.-based documentary and factual projects.

Finally, in 2023 the third and final instalment of \$250,000 was paid to "The Rogers/BSO TV Script Development Fund" in association with The Black Screen Office ("BSO") and The Canadian Independent Screen Fund ("CSIF"). The purpose of this Fund was to provide direct access to script development funding to Black People and People of Color ("BPOC") creators. The Fund also provided BPOC storytellers the opportunity to develop scripted or unscripted content in English and/or French for the international market. Due to the success of this program, Rogers is renewing its commitment for another 3 years starting in 2024 for a total contribution of \$ 900,000 (\$ 300,000 per year).

### (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.

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

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## 2. Significant accounting policies (continued):

### (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.

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.

# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

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## 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 contribution revenue of the Fund. During 2023, Rogers Telefund provided administrative services of \$312,568 (2022 - \$297,679) to the Fund. During the year ended December 31, 2023, the Fund did not exceed the 5% threshold. As at December 31, 2023, the balance due to the Rogers Telefund amounted to \$20,843 (2022 - \$20,182).

## 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.

## 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.



# ROGERS DOCUMENTARY AND CABLE NETWORK FUND

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended December 31, 2023

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## 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 2022.

### (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 Canada's leading wireless, cable and media company that provides connectivity and entertainment to Canadian consumers and businesses across the country. Rogers shares are publicly traded on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX: RCI.A and RCI.B) and on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: RCI). For more information, please visit: [rogers.com](https://www.rogers.com) or [investors.rogers.com](https://investors.rogers.com).





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