



INDIGENOUS SCREEN OFFICE  
BUREAU DE L'ÉCRAN AUTOCHTONE



Annual Report  
2022-23

**The Indigenous Screen Office (ISO)** is an independent national advocacy and funding organization serving First Nations, Inuit and Métis creators of screen content in Canada. The ISO's mandate is to foster and support narrative sovereignty and cultural revitalization by increasing Indigenous storytelling on screens and promoting Indigenous values and participation across the sector.

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## Cover image:

**Aitamaako'tamisskapi Natosi: Before The Sun**, directed by filmmaker Banchi Hanuse (Nuxalk/BC), offers an intimate and thrilling portrait of a young Siksika woman and her family as she prepares for one of the most dangerous horse races in the world on the golden plains of Blackfoot territory. This project has already received accolades at festivals across North America, further highlighting the ISO's support for innovative and impactful Indigenous storytelling.

Image Credit: Luke Connor

# Message from the CEO

Recently, I attended the Arts Funders Forum in Ottawa, where as a panelist I shared what I believe to be the real work of the ISO and Indigenous organizations like ours across all sectors: we are actively engaged in the process of a nation-wide systems change. The post-colonial systems of Canada have been structurally built and anchored by English and French. But three poles are required to build a stable structure and Canada was built on an unsteady framework excluding its Indigenous anchor, preventing this country from reaching its fullest potential.





The passing of Bill C-11 begins the official process of redesigning the Canadian broadcasting system in many ways, one of which is the requirement to support Indigenous production. No longer is this a nice-to-have option if surplus resources become available; Indigenous content will be the third pillar in our system. Within each of these anchoring frameworks we

are required to represent the diversity of this country and the people we serve on our screens, behind the camera, and in the rooms where decisions get made. For ISO this means supporting First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in the places they live and in the ways that they work. It means supporting gender parity, queer and Two-Spirit expression, diverse abilities, indigenous languages and Francophone Indigenous storytellers.

ISO has made a significant mark on the industry in a very short time, demonstrating the promise and potential of Indigenous leadership, creation and co-creation in the screen sector. In the last two years, ISO has delivered over \$24m in funding, nearly doubling funding for Indigenous-made content in this country. A recent Impact Assessment of the Indigenous Audiovisual Sector by Nordicity has shown that the total production volume for Indigenous-made content has also more than doubled, going from \$136m in 2019/20 to \$290m in 2021/22. The diversity of the type of content being funded has also expanded, with the ISO driving an increase from 2% to 13% of Indigenous funding going to alternative formats including web series, immersive, interactive and short form content.

ISO's indisputable impact and successes cannot be achieved without our community, industry and government partners walking with us on this path and we thank them for their unwavering support. ISO was founded on a shared mandate with the Government of Canada of fostering narrative sovereignty and fulfilling the obligations set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We look forward to continuing this work with an imminent renewed commitment and increase to ISO's funding.

I want to thank the hard-working and dedicated team of talented individuals who have accelerated ISO's growth. Kristy Assu has led the funding team to develop rigorous processes centred in Indigenous values of respect and care. Jean-François D. O'Bomsawin has led the expansion of our communications footprint and engaged the Francophone community with new initiatives. ISO has benefited from the wise council of an experienced Board of Directors, and I want to thank outgoing Chair Jean La Rose for his work in supporting ISO since its beginning. All of us extend our deepest thanks to Jesse Wentz, ISO's founding Executive Director who stepped down from his role last year but remains our constant champion and wise council.

Sadly, we recently marked the passing of Board member Shirley Adamson, valued Táän Kwách'än Council Elder and Yukon community member. Shirley was a knowledge keeper, language-speaker, storyteller and Indigenous advocate whose wisdom and guidance contributed greatly to ISO's development. We thank Shirley for her gifts and honour her spirit with our continued work.

All of us at the ISO are honoured to do this work and we do not carry our responsibilities lightly or take for granted the difficult road that has led us here. We never forget that we are first and foremost here to serve Indigenous storytellers, whose work it is to reveal truths, both painful and beautiful; to connect us to our past, present and future; and ultimately change this country.

Chi Miigwetch,

Kerry Swanson  
Chief Executive Officer

# By the Numbers

**\$11.8m** in funds disbursed to companies and individuals plus additional funding for sponsorships and strategic initiatives.

A total of **284 applications** across Story Fund, Sector Development and Netflix programs

**37** recipients awarded funding in production between \$59k and \$500k, for a total of **\$6.8m**.

ISO has allocated over **50%** of this fiscal year's funding for Sector Development to Nunavut, a huge investment in the North.

**69** Indigenous storytellers received assistance amounting to over \$200k for travel to attend markets and festivals.

# The Indigenous Screen Office (ISO) Overview

The Indigenous Screen Office (ISO) is an independent Indigenous-led national advocacy and funding organization serving First Nations, Inuit and Métis creators of screen content in Canada. ISO policies and activities are grounded in and informed by Indigenous knowledge(s), which means respecting Indigenous ways of knowing, seeing, doing, acting, and listening. We acknowledge, and strive to uphold the principles of respect, reciprocity, responsibility, and relevance in our working relationships.

The creation of the ISO in 2017–18 was the result of decades of advocacy from Indigenous industry professionals and creators who identified that an organization supporting Indigenous storytellers was a crucial component to a healthy and robust media landscape in Canada. Since then, the ISO has grown to become North America’s largest Indigenous screen fund and is looked to as a leader in the sector.

**VISION** a thriving Indigenous screen industry that uplifts people and communities through storytelling on screen.

**MISSION** to foster and support narrative sovereignty and cultural revitalization by increasing Indigenous storytelling on screens and promoting Indigenous values and participation across the sector.

**MANDATE** to deliver relevant, responsive, and innovative funding and strategic opportunities that responds to the needs of Indigenous screen-based creators. We fund content creation, professional development, and sector capacity building.

# Partners

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## Core Funding



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## Program Partners





# ISO Team

## ISO Team

**Kerry Swanson**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Kristy Assu**  
Director of Funding Programs

**Jean-François D. O'Bomsawin**  
Director of Marketing and Communications

**Savanna Chiblow**  
Manager of Social Medias  
and Digital Communication

**Nicole Hill**  
Finance Manager

**Tash Naveau**  
Program Manager — Story Fund

**Kaya Wheeler**  
Program Manager — Strategic Initiatives

**Isabelle Ruiz**  
Program Manager — Sector Development

**Natalie Dunlop**  
Program Coordinator

**Ava Brown-Mantha**  
Executive and Communications Assistant

**\*Jesse Wente**  
Co-Executive Director until December 31, 2022

**Consultants**  
Marcia Nickerson  
Nicole Robertson

## ISO Board

**Jean La Rose**  
Chair

**Brock Roe**  
Vice Chair

**Thomas Darnay**  
Treasurer

**Dorothy Christian**  
Secretary

**Daryl Kootenay**  
Board Member

**Shirley Adamson**  
Board Member (In memoriam)

## Membership

Danis Goulet  
Lisa Jackson  
Jennifer Podemski  
Judith Schyuler  
Julie O'Bomsawin  
Alanis Obomsawin



# Story Fund and Sector Development

With approximately \$12 million dollars in funding successfully delivered, the ISO has again exceeded expectations and achieved our goals for the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

In only the second year of funding since our federal allocation was announced, ISO has become a significant contributor to the growth of the Indigenous screen sector in Canada and driving change in the broader industry.

ISO's federal funding is organized and delivered through two streams: Story Fund and Sector Development. In addition to this, ISO delivered programs and initiatives through partnerships including with Netflix, CMF, Telefilm, CBC, APTN, Sundance Institute and MIT.

In the completed fiscal year, ISO received a total of 284 applications across Story Fund, Sector Development and Netflix programs, demonstrating the continued demand and interest in our initiatives. Out of these applications, 191 were successful, with \$11.8m in funds disbursed to companies, individuals and organizations.

The ISO takes immense pride in being able to provide funding for a diverse range of productions and projects across the country. We are committed to continuing our support for Indigenous voices in the screen industry. Through our programs and initiatives, the ISO applies Indigenous knowledge and approaches to foster a vibrant and inclusive Indigenous screen sector that honors and elevates Indigenous stories, perspectives, and talents.

Image Credit: How To Lose Everything - Pow Wow Memory, Chief Lady Bird, Christa Couture





Image Credit: Serving Shaid, April Johnson



Image Credits: Top: Akiivan: Survival, Jeremy Nelson, Bottom: Gwitna'q, Wendell Collier

# Story Fund

## Development Funding

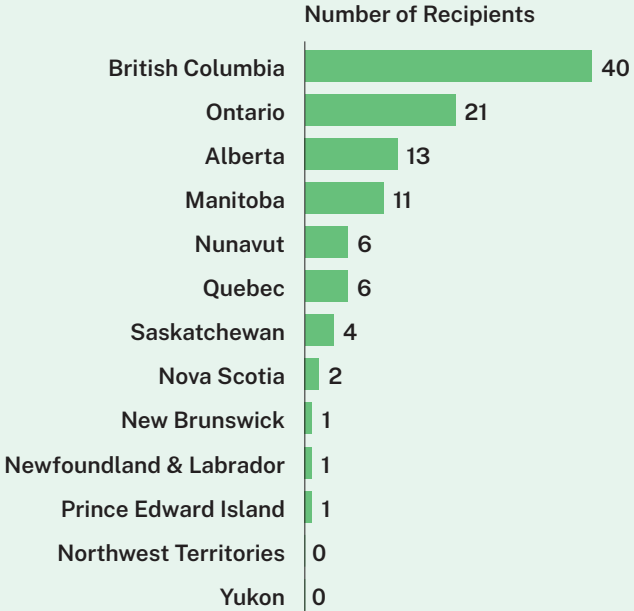
The ISO's Development Program continues to make an impact as one of the most popular programs in the Story Fund portfolio. ISO received 82 applications this year, with 50 recipients awarded funding between \$9,500 and \$40,000, for a total of just under \$1.3m. ISO will continue to prioritize investments at the development stage, as this is a critical access point for new storytellers to enter the industry, and a crucial opportunity for strengthening Indigenous scripts, increasing financing opportunities and overall production values.

### Highlights:

**Roots & Urban Boy** is a feature-length romantic comedy about two lovebirds from different Indigenous Nations who get engaged after six months of dating. The filmmaker, Karonhiarokwas Roxann Whitebean (Kanien'kehá:ka/QC) is developing a story about the differences between the Haudenosaunee and Ojibway peoples in a respectful, real-life scenario that will be entertaining and leave a lasting impact on the viewer.

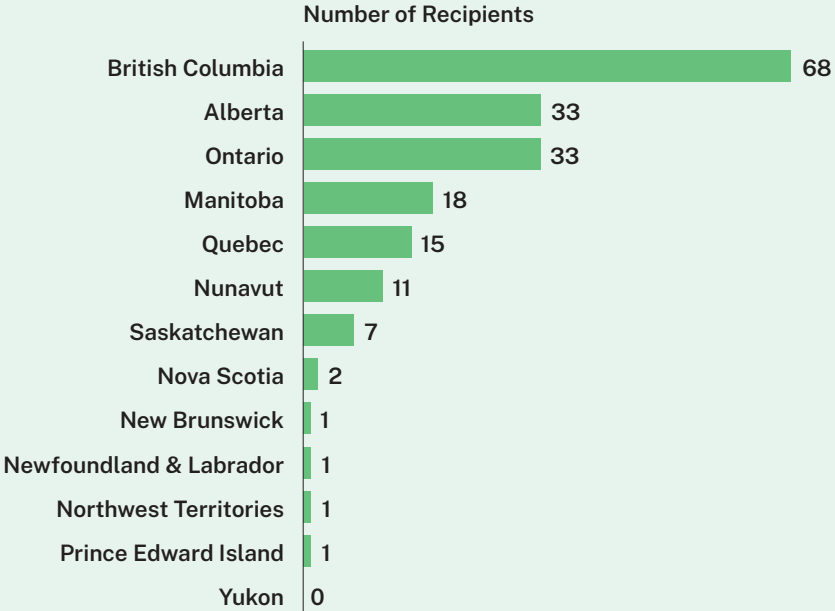
# Story Fund Statistics: The ISO Supported a Diversity of Recipients and Projects from across Canada

**Story Fund Recipients by Province**



Total 106 Recipients

**Overall (Story Fund + Netflix + Sector) Recipients by Province**



Total 191 Recipients



## Production Funding

ISO's Production Program received 64 applications, with 37 recipients awarded funding between \$59k and \$500k, for a total of \$6.8m. Funded projects included film, TV, web series, documentaries, and short films. Four applicants were awarded the maximum funding of \$500k, and these were based in Manitoba, British Columbia, Nunavut, and Ontario. The Production Fund is ISO's most competitive program and we continue to advocate for an increase to our federal budget to support larger production budgets.

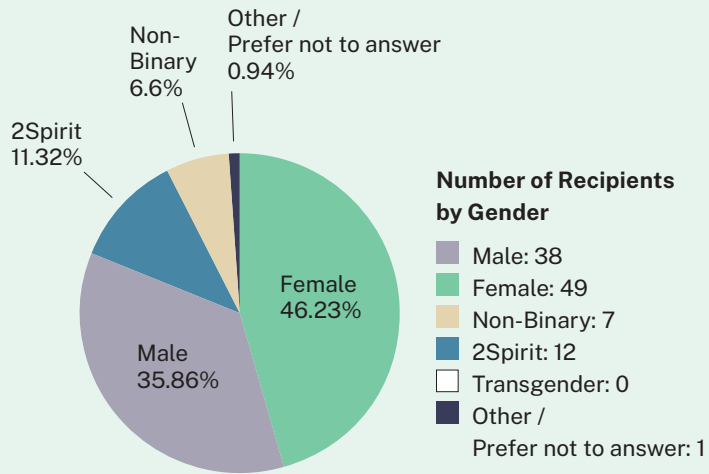
Image Credit: Twindemic, Denis Paquette, Carmen Henriquez

### Highlights:

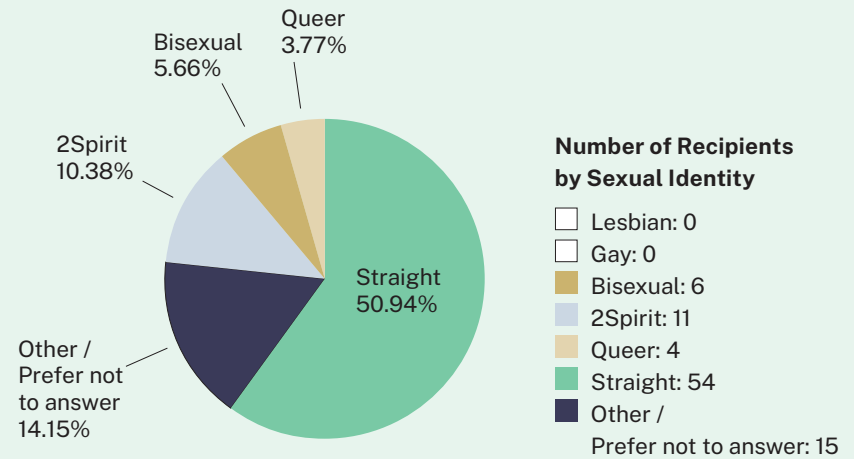
**ANYWHERE** is a 30-minute 16mm metaphysical romance that delves into the holistic practice of love amidst the ongoing global pandemic. The film is written and directed by emerging filmmaker Evelyn Pakinewatik (Anishinaabe/ON), and follows the journey of three main characters who choose to embrace radical love, despite living in a society that lacks it. Through seemingly "impossible" means, the characters demonstrate their commitment to love as an act of liberation. Drawing from Indigenous storytelling and epistemology, "ANYWHERE" explores the ancestral spiritual history that is interwoven within the film's narrative.

# Story Fund Statistics: Voluntary Info From Recipients

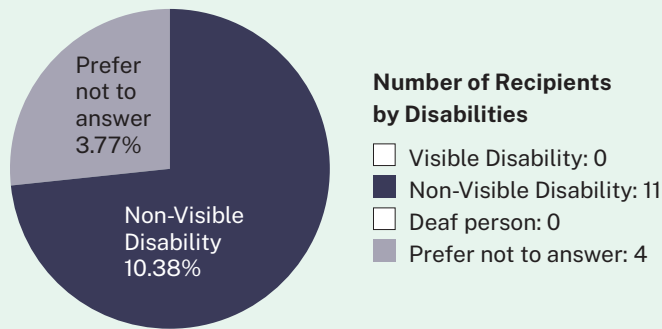
## Story Fund Recipients by Gender



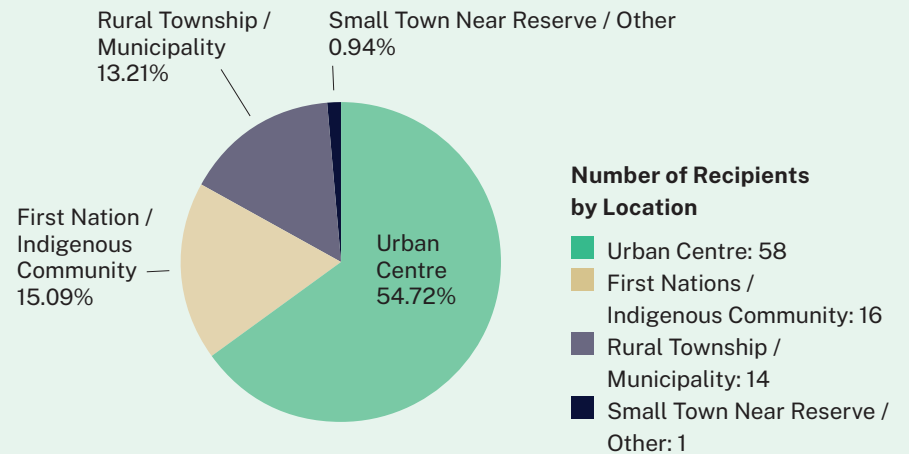
## Story Fund Recipients by Sexual Identity



## Story Fund Recipients by Disability



## Story Fund Recipients by Location





## Finishing Funds / Marketing Promotion, Distribution

This year, ISO received an increase in applications for the post-production stage, particularly for documentary projects, surpassing the number of applications received in post-production funding last year. Out of the 17 funded projects, seven were documentaries.

In response to the increased demand for the Finishing Funds/ Marketing, Promotion, Distribution program, the ISO took proactive steps to increase its allocation for this program. An additional \$248k was allocated above the original \$600k, reflecting our dedication to meeting the needs of Indigenous filmmakers and supporting their creative endeavors.

Image Credit Yintah, Michael Toledano

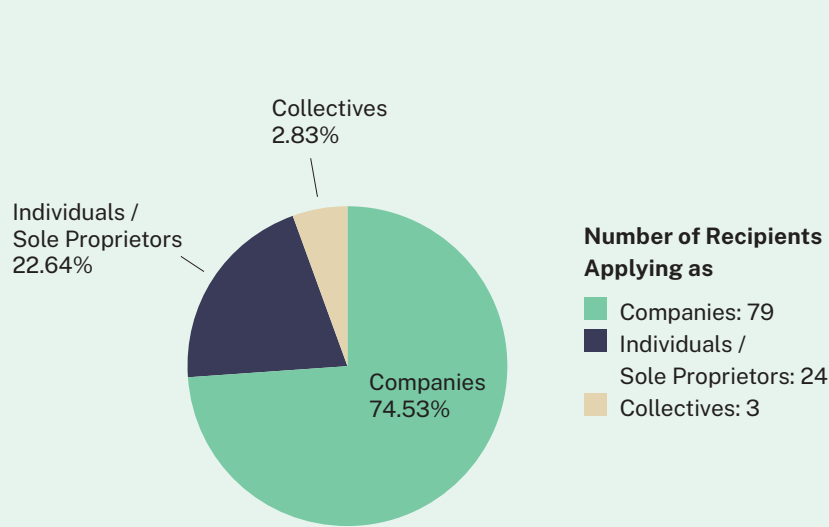
### Highlights:

**Yintah**, is a powerful feature documentary that follows Wet'suwet'en women and their families in their decade-long battle against fossil fuel corporations, the Canadian government, and militarized police. Produced by Jennifer Wickham (Wet'suwet'en/BC) the film sheds light on their unwavering determination to protect their land and culture.

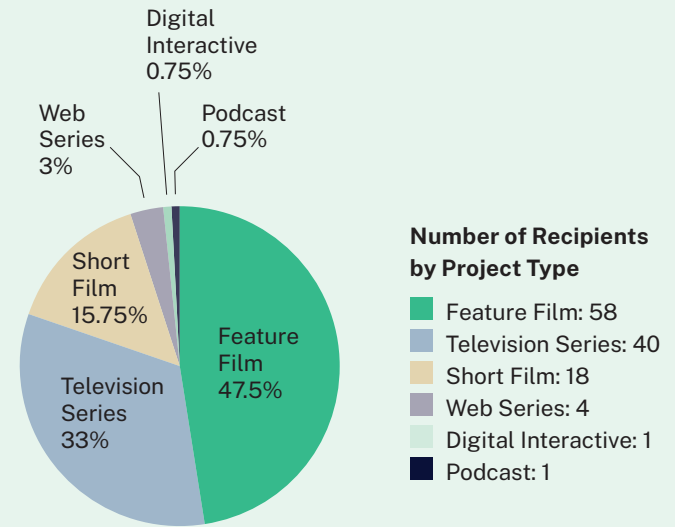


# Story Fund Statistics: Recipients and Projects Supported

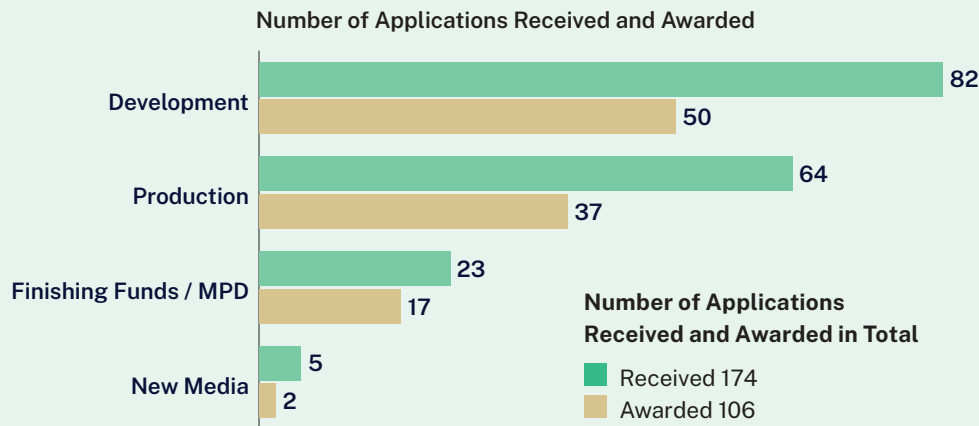
## Story Fund Recipients by Applicant Type



## Story Fund Recipients by Project Type

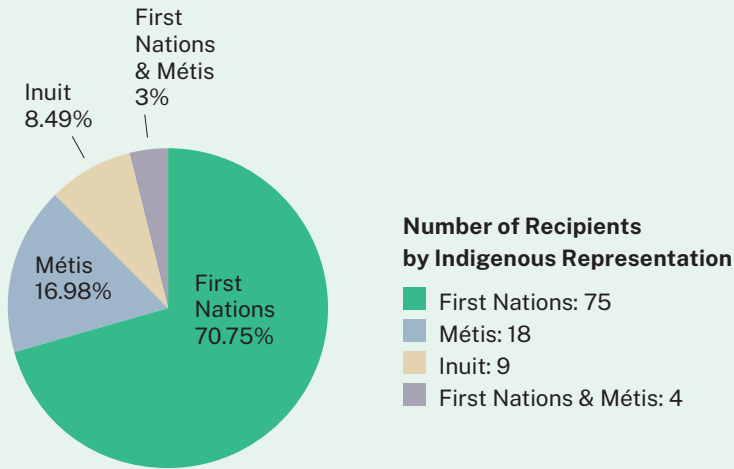


## Number of Applications Received and Awarded

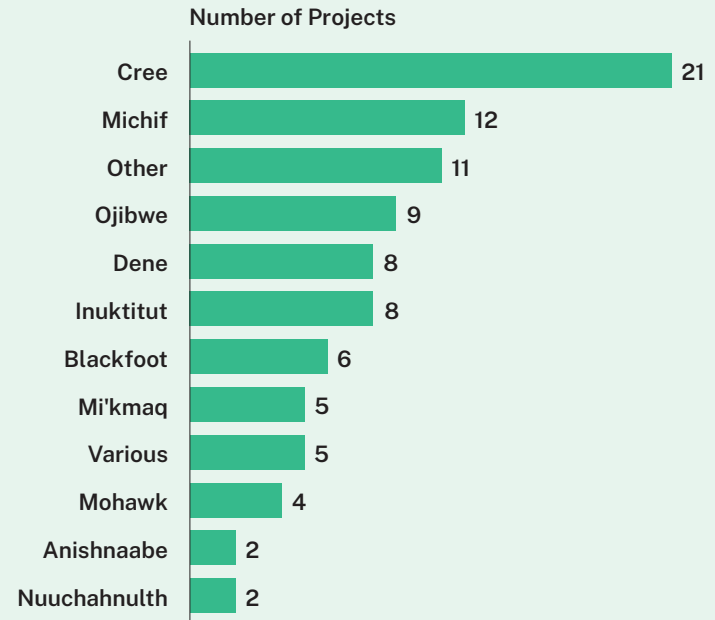


# Story Fund Statistics: Indigenous Representation and Languages

## Story Fund Recipients by Indigenous Representation



## Story Fund Projects by Indigenous Language



## Indigenous Language Projects

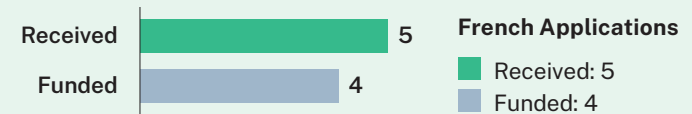
**87.70%**  
**93 of 106** Story Fund projects include Indigenous language

24% of projects included more than 30% Indigenous languages (25 in total)

17% of projects included more than 50% Indigenous languages (18 in total)

12% of projects included more than 90% Indigenous languages (13 in total)

## Projects received and funded in French:



# Sector Development

## Sector Development Program

As the industry continues to grow, the need for training and infrastructure becomes even more crucial.

The ISO supported some exciting sector development initiatives across the country, investing just under \$2m, with projects including our continued partnership with Tantoo Cardinal's Tap Root Actors Academy (AB), capacity building for Jennifer Podemski's The Shine Network Institute (ON), and Jordan Molaro's Nu Media Education Program (MB).

A notable milestone is ISO's largest funding commitment yet, a capital contribution to support the ground-up building of a film and television production studio in Iqaluit. ISO was first-in funder for the studio initiative, led by Red Marrow Media, which triggered a private partnership investment. This ensured that Red Marrow's scripted series, a CBC/APTN/Netflix first-ever collaboration, will be shot in Nunavut rather than in the south, as originally budgeted. Following production, the studio will create economic development opportunities for Nunavut's film and TV industry, and be shared for broad community use.

The ISO has supported eight initiatives through this program with representation in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Nunavut which included our first-ever initiative on the small island of Haida Gwaii, BC.



Image Credit: Cafe Daughter, Shelley Niro

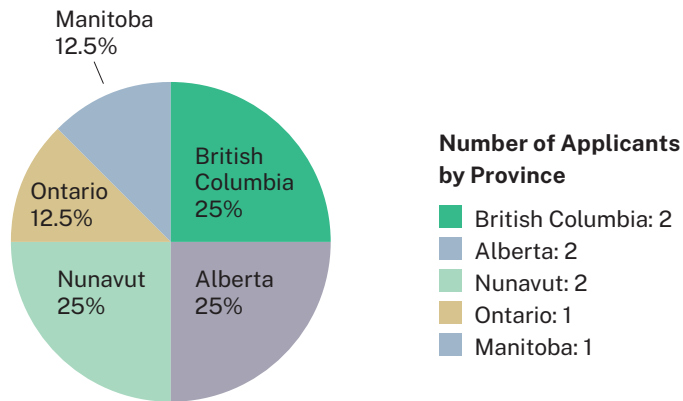
## Highlights

The ISO has allocated over 50% of this fiscal year's funding for Sector Development to Nunavut, a huge investment in the North. In addition to the studio, ISO has also supported Uvagut TV and Inuit TV, initiatives firmly rooted in the continuation of Inuit language and culture.

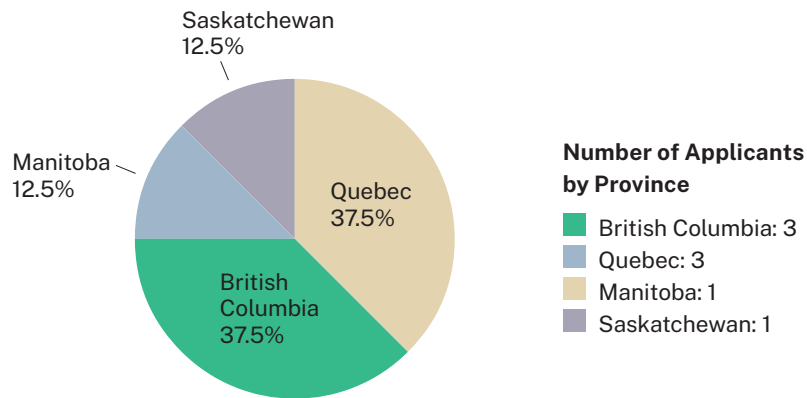
ISO supported two important projects in Alberta, a province that has historically faced underfunding in the screen industry. These initiatives are specifically designed to support emerging creators, with a particular emphasis on youth. Tap Roots and Blue Quills, located on Metis and First Nations lands, respectively, are governed, controlled, and designed by and for First Nations and Metis people. These unique programs are well-suited to meet the needs of remote and community-based youth who aspire to become storytellers and/or build careers in the screen industry.

# Sector Development / Netflix Applicant Statistics

## Sector Development Applicants by Province



## Netflix Applicants by Province



# Travel Funding

In its first year, the Travel Funding Program has been highly successful in supporting storytellers to attend market and festival opportunities, providing them with networking, professional development and chances to sell or showcase their projects.

A total of 87 applicants applied for support from the ISO, out of which 67 Indigenous storytellers received assistance amounting to over \$200k.

This new and ongoing program is in high demand, supporting creators with diverse backgrounds and projects to attend festivals and markets nationally and international including;

- The Canadian Creative Accelerator (CCA) — Los Angeles, California
- TIFF Toronto International Film Festival
- imagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival
- Blood in The Snow Film Festival Horror Development Lab
- Kidscreen 2023, Miami, Florida
- European Film Market at Berlinale
- Maoriland Film Festival, New Zealand



Image Credit: Co-Creation Studio

## Travel Applicants by Province

Province	Number of Applicants	Amount awarded
British Columbia	23	\$55,855.00
Manitoba	5	\$18,400.00
Ontario	11	\$35,710.00
Alberta	18	\$55,190.00
Quebec	6	\$14,470.00
Saskatchewan	2	\$7,000.00
North West Territories	1	\$2,500.00
Nunavut	3	\$11,500.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>\$200,625.00</b>

# Partnership Programs and Strategic Initiatives

With our federal funding allocation, ISO supports a number of strategic initiatives, in collaboration with partners across the country that are in line with the objectives outlined in our strategic plan. In addition to this, ISO has a number of partners that contribute additional funding to support strategic programs and initiatives.

## Highlights:

- ISO supported two creators via the Cultural Mentorship stream of this program. Brooke Rice's (Kanien'kehá:ka/QC) 'Wakatheron:ni -building my bundle' is an experimental VR work currently in development, and they will consult with an Indigenous weaver and an Indigenous potter. Keisha Erwin's (Afro-Indigenous/Nihithaw/SK) scripted short film nôhcmihk, will engage three Woodland Cree language speakers during the scriptwriting and development phase of the project.
- Building on the success of previous apprenticeships, Kim Senklip Harvey (Sylx/Tsilhqot'in/BC) will be working as a producer apprentice with Sphere Media, focusing on the newest season of CBC's 'Sort Of'.

## Apprenticeship and Cultural Mentorship Program: Supported by Netflix

This program, a partnership with Netflix, experienced significant growth in funding allocations, reflecting our commitment to supporting Indigenous-led training and mentorship for the sector. The funding for apprenticeships increased from \$30k to \$60k and for cultural mentorships, it increased from \$15k to \$25k. This decision was made based on feedback from the community, which emphasized that larger funding amounts would have a more significant impact and lead to longer and more meaningful mentorship opportunities.

The ISO's longest running program has been renewed for a fifth year with the continued support of Netflix Canada, ISO's first program partner. This program has enabled ISO to make meaningful investments in various regions, with British Columbia and Quebec receiving the largest investments in 2022/23.

Program assessors were selected from three different nations and three different provinces, including Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia, representing our commitment to diversity and inclusion.



Image Credit: Acting Good, Big Makwa Pictures

### **APTN/CBC Pre-Development Incubator Program**

This program, initiated by ISO, offered an opportunity for four Indigenous projects and provided professional development to creators who were still in the pre-development phase. CBC and APTN executives worked closely with the producers and creators to create a unique opportunity for the projects to advance into the development and production phases.

The four projects selected were::

- Rez in the City, Gail Maurice (Métis/ON)
- Misty Dior, Jessica Matten (Métis/AB)
- The Break, Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers (Blackfoot/Sami/AB), Lisa Jackson (Anishinaabe/ON) and Katherena Vermette (Métis/MB)
- Pihkohowin, Tasha Hubbard (Cree/SK) and Shane Belcourt (Métis/ON)

### **Directors Guild of Canada/ ISO Director Fellowship**

Following a successful pilot in 2021–22, the full program was launched in June 2022. The program aims to pair a mid-career Director who has experience in directing web series, short films, and/or feature films and is interested in transitioning into episodic television directing, with a DGC Production.

The 2022–23 fiscal year saw two director fellows placed on shows in Canada:

- Lorne Cardinal (Cree/BC), Family Law, Vancouver, BC
- Eric Janvier (Dene/AB), Fargo, Calgary, AB.

### **Sundance Institute**

The ISO has continued its support for this initiative and has entered its fourth year with the Sundance Institute to support one Indigenous storyteller in Canada to take part in their Native Filmmakers Lab. The Lab focuses on the specific development of Indigenous storytellers who are working on feature films and episodic work. During the Lab, Fellows will hone their storytelling and technical skills in a hands-on and supportive environment, including one-on-one feedback sessions with advisors and roundtable discussions, and a focus on script writing and development.

The 2023 participant is Eva Grant (St'át'imc/BC) for her scripted series 'Degrees of Separation'. There were 33 eligible applications, the highest number of applications received to date.

### **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**

An historic delegation of six Indigenous artists gathered in Cambridge, MA to share their work with each other and the MIT community in April. The theme of the gathering was *Indigenous Knowledge and Immersive Technologies*. In partnership with the Co-Creation Studio at MIT Open Documentary Lab, the group incubated their own immersive media projects, toured various MIT labs and met with Indigenous leaders from MIT and across the territory over four days.

The ISO supported four of the six artists to incubate the following immersive/interactive projects in development:

- Ryan Atimoyoo (Cree/BC) -Pawakan VR
- Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory (Inuk/NVT) - Tartupaluk VR
- Dr T'uy't'tatanat Cease Wyss (Skwxwu7mesh/Sto:lo /Hawaiian/Swiss/BC) and Anne Riley (Slavey Dene/German/BC) -Constellation of Coresistance VR

The MIT-funded US participants were:

**Tiare Ribeaux** (Kānaka Maoli) and **Chloe Alexandra Thompson** (Cree).

### **Immersive/Interactive Producer Fellowship at the National Film Board**

The NFB and ISO partnered on the inaugural Immersive/Interactive Producer Fellowship at the NFB. Claudia Skunk (Anishinaabe/ON) will work in English at the Animation & Interactive Studio in Vancouver, and Neegan Sioui Trudel (Wendat/QC), will work in French at the Interactive Studio in Montreal. The six-month program aims to develop expertise in the fields of VR, XR, AI and games, and to tap into the job opportunities available in this growing area of production.



Image Credit: Sundance Lab, Justin Ducharme

# Festival Sponsorships

ISO welcomed, hosted and supported hundreds of Indigenous delegates and industry attendees through our strategic sponsorships of key festivals and events in Canada.

Over the year, the ISO sponsored a number of festivals and events, investing \$140k to support the showcasing and gathering of Indigenous talent. At the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), ISO hosted a welcome breakfast for Indigenous filmmakers from Canada, New-Zealand and Australia and reception to celebrate three Indigenous filmmakers premiering three feature films produced with the support of ISO. Over 300 guests attended both events combined. ISO also supported ImagineNATIVE, the Vancouver International Film Festival and the Whistler Film Festival.

ISO continued our support as co-founder of the Indigenous Screen Summit at the Banff World Media Festival, with 15 pitches from across Canada showing to a packed audience of international broadcasters and industry professionals.

Image credit: Kristian Bogner.  
Jordan Molar at the Indigenous Screen Summit,  
Banff World Media Festival 2022





# International Market Development

ISO developed new international market development initiatives and built a strategy for moving forward and maximizing the abundant opportunities in this arena. Highlights include:

## European Trade Mission

ISO was invited by Canadian Heritage to participate in the government delegation on their trade mission to Europe where we strengthened relationships with Canadian counterparts, and built new relationships with European funders and festivals. One connection resulted in ISO partnering with the Berlin International Film Festival on a VR exhibition of Inuk artist Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory at the Marshall McLuhan Gallery in the Embassy of Canada to Germany. Groundwork was laid for other collaborations listed below.

## Cannes Film Festival

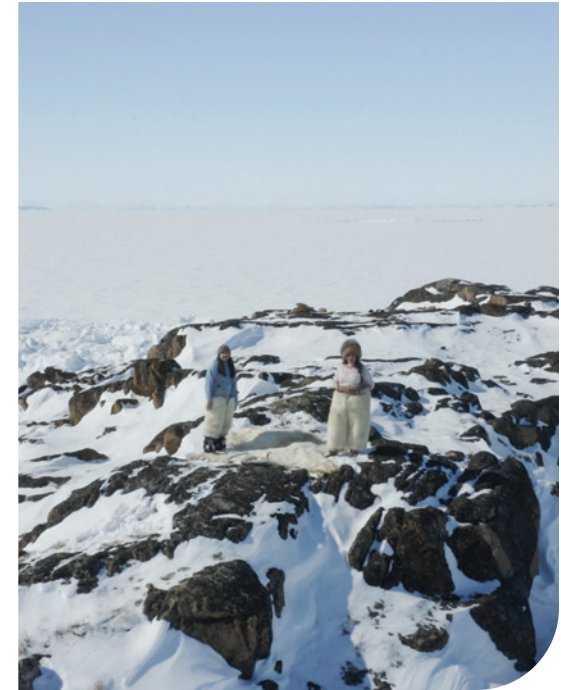
ISO partnered with Telefilm Canada to bring two delegates to participate in specific programs offered at Cannes. ISO delegate, emerging producer Jennifer Wickham (We'tsu'weten/BC), pitched her documentary about the We'tsu'weten land protectors in her home community at Docs in Progress, where it won the Think-Film Impact Award. ISO is now working with Telefilm Canada and Ontario Creates to host the first Indigenous International Co-production Forum at Cannes 2023, taking over the Canadian pavilion for a day of networking, panels, roundtables with 20 producers from Canada and around the world.

## International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA)

Building on our ongoing collaboration with MIT's Co-Creation Studio at Open Documentary Lab, ISO was invited to participate in a series of talks and panels related to the studio's recent publication Collective Wisdom and the theme of "co-creation". The book cited a number of ISO's Fellows from the 2020 MIT/ISO fellowship program. ISO brought two Indigenous MIT Fellows as delegates, as well as one delegate pitching in the IDFA Digital Forum.

## Content London

Turning to the scripted series content space, ISO took four producer delegates to Content London, a four-day B2B market and symposium, in collaboration with the CMPA and the Consulate of Canada to the UK. ISO participated in a panel session on diversity initiatives with the Black Screen Office, and UK participants from the BBC and Creative Diversity Network. ISO also partnered with CMF and introduced a breakfast talk with CMF CEO Valerie Creighton and ISO delegate, filmmaker Gail Maurice.



Tartupaluk (Prototype), Laakkuluk Williamson-Bathory and Jaqqa Petersen, Image credit: Thibaut Larquey

# Organizational Growth for the ISO

The ISO team has grown to 11 full-time employees, working across Canada in English and French in BC, Ontario, Manitoba and Quebec. We met our hiring goals set last year, onboarding the Director of Marketing & Communications, Program Coordinator and Social Medias and Digital Communication Manager.

We recently confirmed the hiring of the newly created role of Senior Manager, International Market Development. This role will implement ISO's newly created International Market Development Strategy developed by consultant Marcia Nickerson.



# 3-Year Strategic Plan, Annual Check-In

ISO held our first all-staff retreat in Ontario, gathering together to track our success in meeting the goals and priorities outlined in our strategic plan, and setting goals for the year ahead.

Our key objectives are being met in the following areas:

## Leading Systemic Change:

- ISO will work with the CRTC with Indigenous consultations on Bill C-11 and advocate for changes to CAVCO rules that prevent our producers from working with Indigenous people across borders.
- ISO is regularly asked to partner with broadcasters, with the innovative CBC/APTN program a strong example. This program is now being adapted for Radio-Canada in French and is being renewed for a second year.
- The NFB program in English and French is meeting a gap in the industry for Indigenous immersive and interactive producers, an area of growing demand.
- The Indigenous Screen Summit in Banff was a resounding success and a highlight of the festival, creating excitement around the abundance of ideas in the Indigenous sector.
- ISO programs such as Sector Development and policies such as identity are being adapted by larger funding agencies. ISO is regularly cited as a leading organization.

## Growing Audience Appreciation

- ISO has had great initial success in its first year of developing an international strategy, with Indigenous content continuing to gain interest abroad.
- Three ISO-funded feature films premiered at the 2022 TIFF, with this year's festival showcasing the highest number of Indigenous-made films in its history.
- ISO funded a number of community-based screenings, including a tour for the highly successful feature 'Nightraiders', ensuring that alternative distribution models are supported.

## Investing In A Connected Talent Stream

- ISO built on existing initiatives, to ensure that program opportunities were not just a one-off but part of a larger strategy. For example, CBC/APTN program recipients were brought to Prime Time and were provided with a pitch slot at Banff World Media Festival.
- ISO is working closely with Telefilm and other partners such as Ontario Creates to create targeted and strategic support for talent. For example, this year we will take over the Canadian pavilion at Cannes to bring 20 Indigenous producers and filmmakers together from around the world. We will build on this initiative to find other ways to connect this talent.

## Build A Thriving Organization

- ISO is a circular organization, with a non-hierarchical approach that empowers all team members to succeed.
- As a small non-profit organization, we prioritize taking care of our team with competitive salaries, health benefits package, pension plan and equal and generous time for all employees.
- ISO is co-designed with the Indigenous screen-based community. We maintain active and open channels of communication and feedback so that we can respond to the changing needs of the sector.

# Communications

The communications team has made great strides achieving the four key goals outlined in ISO's Strategic Plan: to create awareness, to champion, to celebrate and to inform.

ISO maintains ongoing positive relations with the media throughout the year to announce funding opportunities, strategic partnerships and participation in international markets. A total of 13 media releases generated numerous news articles in the *Globe & Mail*, *Playback*, *Qui fait Quoi*, *APTN National News*, *CBC* and *She is Wise*. CEO Kerry Swanson was featured in the *Globe and Mail*, *Toronto Star*, and *Canadian Press* in an advocacy campaign to reverse ISO's exclusion from the 2023 federal budget, where we expected renewed and increased funding starting from 2024.

ISO was actively engaged in the discussion on the Bill C-11 and the revision of the Broadcasting Act; public letters, media interviews, and testimonies at the Senate are some of the actions to advocate for the Indigenous screen. Presenting testimony to the Senate, Jesse Went, former Co-Executive Director of ISO said the bill "...must ensure not just the opportunity for Indigenous storytelling, but the support for its creation and dissemination. And it must not curtail innovation."

ISO has expanded its outreach to the Francophone community, presenting the Protocols and Pathways to the members of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television (ACCT) in French and bringing the first Indigenous delegation to attend the awards ceremony of Les G meaux in Montreal.

Image credit: Eric Myre



# Social Media and Digital Communications

With the new team, ISO has made some exciting changes to our digital communications strategy resulting in significant increases in followers across all our social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

ISO increased overall engagement and reach on Instagram as a key strategy. The platform allows ISO to centre and showcase community leaders and innovators, like Alanis Obomsawin, who inspire and uplift others. Additionally, we highlighted participants in various festivals and events, creating a sense of community and shared experience. Our goal was to cultivate a space where people could come together and celebrate the diverse voices and perspectives that make up our world.

The digital communications strategy includes the development of a monthly newsletter. The newsletter is packed with updates from ISO and industry-related news. It has been a great way to stay connected with our audience and keep them engaged with ISO priorities.

### ISO Podcast Series

Another exciting addition to our digital communications strategy is our new podcast series. In 2023 ISO launched a monthly podcast called 'ISO Storytellers'. Each episode features in-depth interviews with filmmakers, storytellers, writers, producers, and actors.

ISO's digital communications strategy continues to expand how we connect, relate, and engage with our Indigenous community and external partners.

## Social Media Statistics

### Overall Web Statistics

23,211 Users  
82,773 Pageviews

### Overall Newsletter Statistics

412 Followers

### Reach and Impressions by Platform

Platform	Type	2022-2023 Total
Facebook	Reach	128,553
Instagram	Reach	13,533
Twitter	Impressions	173,669
LinkedIn	Impressions	21,545

### Followers by Platform

Followers	2022-2023 Total
Facebook	3,530
Instagram	3,351
Twitter	3,429
LinkedIn	668

Note: An impression is the number of people who saw any content from the Page, including posts, stories, ads and social information from people who interact with the ISO Page and more. Reach may include multiple views of posts by the same people.

# Finance

ISO continues its track record of prudent financial management, spending its full allocation from Canadian Heritage in the last fiscal year.

In addition to the \$13m annual federal allocation, ISO brought in an additional \$1.1m in funding through partnerships, most of which went directly to program disbursements. ISO spending on administration and operations, including fees paid to outside consultants and all program delivery costs, was 11% of overall budget at \$1.5m in total.

A major new partnership was confirmed for the coming year, a \$500k grant from Google.org to support a new digital, immersive and interactive funding program at the ISO, as well as strategic initiatives to support content creators using new technologies and non-linear platforms.

ISO is now in its third year of a three-year contribution agreement with the federal government and we have flagged a major risk in the organization's financial security — the government's decision to delay its renewal of ISO funding. ISO requested an increase in the last federal budget in line with our original request of \$27m per year in ongoing funding, and this request was excluded from the last federal budget process. We are working closely with our partners at Canadian Heritage and are confident that the alarm has been heard and that a resolution will be forthcoming. We look forward to continuing to build on our relationship with the government as partners and equals.

# 2022–23 Fiscal Year Recipients

## Recommenders

### Development

Melaw Nakehk'o · Dene/Dënesułíné, NT  
Courtney Montour · Kanien'kehá:ka, QC  
Tracy Bonneau · Syilx, BC

### Production

Bretten Hannam · Mi'kmaq, NS  
Doreen Manuel · Secwepemc/Ktunaxa, BC  
Darlene Naponse · Anishinaabe, ON

### Netflix

Jason Brennan · Anishinaabe, QC  
KJ Edwards · Kanien'kehá:ka, BC  
Tasha Hubbard · Cree, AB

## Funding Recipients

### Production

10143928 MANITOBA Inc., Roger Boyer · Sauteaux/Ojibwe, MB  
6695443 Manitoba Inc., Rhéanne Vermette · Métis, MB  
Acimow Media · Métis/Cree, BC  
Akia Films · Inuk/Haitian/Taino, BC  
The Aunties Dandilion · Kanyen'kehà:ka (Mohawk), ON  
Back To Space Productions Inc. · Ojibway, MB  
BOAF Films EFF Inc. · Michif, BC  
Boreal Wolf Film Productions · Dene/Kwakiutl, BC  
Cameron Watts · Tseshah, BC  
Chakastetin Productions Inc. · Cree, BC  
CHUMS Media Inc. · Cree/Sauteaux, SK  
David Lennan Holdings Ltd. · Plains Cree, SK  
Dirty Jacket Productions Inc. · Blackfoot, BC  
Eagle Vision Inc. · Ojibway/Anishinaabe, MB  
Jonathan Elliott · Mohawk/Kanien'kehá:ka, ON  
Kingulliit Productions Inc. · Inuit, NU  
LS Productions 1 Inc. · Cree, MB  
Makwa Creative · Anishinaabe, ON  
Mangittatuarjuk Productions Inc. · Inuit, NU  
Morningstar Derosier · Anishinaabe-Nehiyawak, ON  
Nish Television · Anishinaabe, QC  
Orca Cove Media · Cowichan, BC  
Pass Through Productions Inc. · Onondaga, BC  
Phoenix Skye Productions Inc. · Denesuline, Dene, BC  
Pow Wow Productions Inc. · Haida, BC  
Princess Space Monster Films · Inuit, NS

Rachel Beaulieu · Anishinaabekwe, MB  
Rot Wood Media Inc. · Anishinaabe, ON  
Spotted Fawn Production · Michif, BC  
Tohkapi Cinema Ltd. · Cree, BC  
Tuktu Television Season 1 Inc. · Inuit, NU  
Umik Media · Inuk, NU  
Victoria Anderson Gardner · Anishinaabe, ON  
Victoria Redsun · Denesuline/Nehitho, MB  
Water Worlds Productions Ltd. · Cree/Métis, BC  
Wilds of Canada Ltd. · Cree/Anishinaabe, AB  
Wolfwalker Productions Inc. · Métis, ON

### Development

2291820 Alberta Ltd., Saxon de Cocq · Métis Nation of Alberta, AB  
Adeline Bird Productions · Rolling River FN, MB  
Amanda Peters · Mi'kmaq/Settler, NS  
Back to Space Productions Inc. · Peguis, MB  
Bear Paw New Media Productions Ltd. · Mi'kmaq, NB  
Yintah Film Ltd. · Long Plain Ojibwe, BC  
Bottom of my Shoe Productions Inc. · Anishinaabe, MB  
Bruce Thomas Miller · Matachewan FN, AB  
Chelsey Lee Mark · Métis, ON  
Cinethetica · Waywayseeccappo, ON  
Delford Louis · Cree, AB  
Devonshire Productions Inc. · Mohawk, ON  
Ekosi Productions Inc. · Metis/Cree/Settler, BC  
Eva Thomas Inc. · Walpole Island First Nation, ON  
Firediva Productions Inc. · Dene/Dakehl, BC  
Gaayangaay Productions Ltd. · Haida / Cree, BC  
Gail Maurice · Cree/Métis, ON  
Helen Knott · Dane Zaa, Cree, Metis, BC  
Jamie Bourque-Blyan · Nehiyaw, AB  
Jay Cardinal Villeneuve · Nehiyawi-Cree/Métis, BC  
Jessica Brown · Nunatsiavut, NL  
Kim Senklip Harvey · Syilx and Tsilhqot'in, BC  
Lewis Cardinal · Woodland Cree, AB  
Marru Productions Inc. · Inuk, NU

**Mixed Creatives** · Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, BC  
**Nika Productions** · Metis, AB  
**Nipiya Moana Shirt** · Saddle Lake Cree Nation, AB  
**Orca Cove Media Inc.** · Cowichan Tribes, BC  
**Plaansh a Roo Films Inc.** · Fort St. John Métis Society, ON  
**Red Giant Productions Inc.** · Mi'kmaq, PE  
**Redcloud Studios Inc.** ·  
 Muscowpetung Sauteaux Nation, ON  
**Rezolution Pictures International Inc.** · Cree, QC  
**Road Trip Films Inc.** · Lower St'at'imc, BC  
**Roxann Whitebean** · Mohawk of Kahnawake, QC  
**Rueben Martell** · Waterhen Lake Cree Nation, SK  
**Ryan Atimoyoo** · Cree, BC  
**Sage Petahtegoose** · Ojibwe, ON  
**Sarah Podemski** · Anishinaabe/Ashkenazi, ON  
**SHO Cycle 3 Ltd.** · Blackfoot/Cree, AB  
**Stingray Pictures Inc.** · Metis, AB  
**TaiGraumanandHeatherHatchproductions Productions Inc.** · Haida, AB  
**TDEP Productions Ltd.** · Métis Nation of Alberta-Region VI, AB  
**Terre Innue Inc.** · Innu, QC  
**Tohkapi Cinema Ltd.** · Driftpile Cree Nation, BC  
**Tooth & Nail Pictures Ltd.** · St'at'imc, BC  
**Two Hounds Media Inc.** · Cree / Metis, BC  
**Umik Media Inc.** · Inuk, NU  
**Visuelles Productions Inc.** · Cree, Attawapiskat, BC  
**Wabung Anung Films Ltd.** · Ojibway, ON

## Finishing Funds

**1375964 BC Ltd., William George** · Tsleil-Waututh, BC  
**A Stellar Film Inc.** · Mohawk, ON  
**Ayasew Ooskana Pictures Inc.** · Métis/Dene, BC  
**From the Shadows TV Production Ltd.** · Métis, BC  
**Ice Road Productions Inc.** · Dene, BC  
**Interdimensional Pictures Inc.** · Ojibway, MB  
**Orca Cove Media Inc.** · Cowichan, BC  
**Pallasite Films Inc.** · Anishinaabe (Aamjiwnaang), ON

**Plaansh a Roo Films Inc.** · Métis, ON  
**1375964 BC Ltd., William George** · Nehiyaw, AB  
**Rezolution Entertainment Inc.** · Cree, QC  
**Spotted Fawn Productions Inc.** · Michif, BC  
**Terre Innue Inc.** · Innu, QC  
**The Feather Entertainment Inc.** ·  
 Sauteaux First Nation, SK  
**Visuelles Productions Inc.** · Cree, BC  
**Warrior Ride Productions Inc.** · Kwakwaka'wakw &  
 Stō:lo Nations, BC  
**Yintah Film Ltd.** · Wet'suwet'en, BC

## Netflix

**7th Gen Season Two Inc.** · Ojibway/Anishinaabe, MB  
**Brooke Rice** · Kanien'kehà:ka, QC  
**ithiniw Film Productions Corporation** ·  
 Nihithaw (Woodland Cree), SK  
**Kassiw Médià Inc.** · Abenaki, QC  
**Kim Senklip Harvey** · Syilx and Tsilhqot'in, BC  
**Pick the Path Productions Inc.** · Cree/Mohawk/Métis, BC  
**Spotted Fawn Productions Inc.** · Métis, BC  
**Terre Innue Inc.** · Innu, QC

## New Media

**Collective — The Aunties Dandelion** · Kanyen'kehà:ka (Mohawk), ON  
**Pick the Path Productions Inc. (Alley Originals/Mosaic)** · Mohawk/Cree/Métis, BC

## Strategic Initiatives

**aabijjiwan New Media Lab (Julie Nagam)** · MB  
**Amanda Lee Murray/ Skylee Murray** · BC  
**Beky Cardinal** · AB  
**Beyond Boarding Collective (Klabona Keepers)** · BC  
**Bruce Miller** · Cree/anishinaabe, AB  
**Chance Isbister-Yellow Sun** · AB

**Chandelle Holomego** · AB  
**Cody Lefthand** · Stoney Nakoda/Dene, AB  
**Eric Janvier** · Dene, AB  
**Dale Alexis** · Stoney Nakoda Sioux/Plains Cree, AB  
**Dallas Soonias** · Cree/Anishinaabe, AB  
**Darlene Naponse** · Anishinaabe, ON  
**Douglas Winnipeg** · Blackfoot, AB  
**Gail Maurice** · Cree/Métis, ON  
**Jerimiah Morrison** · AB  
**Jessica Matten** · Metis/Cree, AB  
**Leena Minifie** · Gitxaala, BC  
**Lisa Jackson** · Aamjiwnaang (Anishinaabe), ON  
**Loretta Todd** · Cree/Metis, BC  
**Lorne Cardinal** · Cree, BC  
**Lyndon Suntjens** · AB  
**Mary Jo Badger** · AB  
**Natascha Okimaw** · AB  
**Nyla Innuksuk** · Inuk, ON  
**Paula Devonshire** · Mohawk, ON  
**Shane Belcourt** · Métis, ON  
**Shine Network Institute** · Anishinaabe, MB  
**Sundance Institute — Native Filmmakers Lab**  
**Tasha Hubbard** · Cree, ON  
**Tina Keeper** · Cree, MB  
**Tyler Hagan** · Métis, BC  
**Weengushk Film Institute (Shirley Cheechoo)** · ON  
**Zoe Hopkins** · Mohawk · ON

## Sector Development

**Haida Gwaii Media Collective Inc.** · BC  
**NITV (Nunavut Independent Television)** · NU  
**Nu Media Films Inc.** · MB  
**Red Marrow Media Inc.** · NU  
**Spotted Fawn Productions Inc.** · Métis, BC  
**Tantoo Cardinal's Tap Root Actors Academy** · AB  
**The Shine Network Institute** · ON  
**University nuxełhot'jine thaa'ehots'j nistameyimākanak**  
**Blue Quills** · AB



# Travel

**13365441 Canada Inc., Jeremy Nelson** ·

Métis with Cree, ON

**Adeline Bird** · Afro-Anishnabe, MB

**Amanda Lickers (Iako'tsi:rareh)** · Seneca,

Six Nations of the Grand River, QC

**April Johnson** · Metis/Cree, BC

**Assini Productions** · Métis, ON

**Autumn Godwin** · Nihithaw, QC

**Barker Street Cinema Inc.** · Upper Similkameen

Indian Band, BC

**Brooke Rice** · Kanien'keha:ka, QC

**Bruce Miller** · Cree/anishinaabe, AB

**Carmen Esther Thompson** · Ditidaht First Nation, BC

**Cody Lefthand** · Stoney Nakoda/Dene, AB

**Courtney Montour** · Kanien'kehá:ka, QC

**Dallas Soonias** · Cree/Anishinaabe, AB

**Dawn Nagazina** · Métis, AB

**Denise Halfyard** · Wet'suwet'en, BC

**Devonshire Productions Inc.** · Mohawk, ON

**Eric Janvier** · Dene, AB

**Eva Thomas Inc.** · Walpole Island First Nation, ON

**Faith Sparrow** · x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyám, BC

**Firediva Productions Inc.** · Dene/Dakehl, BC

**Gaayangaay Production Ltd.** · Haida/Cree, BC

**Jade Harper** · Anishinabe & Inninew, MB

**Jason Ryle** · Anishinaabe, ON

**Jerry Wolf** · Waywayseecappo, ON

**Jonelle Belcourt** · Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, AB

**Judith Schuyler** · Onyota'a:ka (Oneida),

Haudenosaunee, ON

**Jules Koostachin** · Attawapiskat, BC

**Kim Stadfeld** · Anishinaabe, ON

**KJ Edwards** · Kanien'kehá:ka, BC

**Kwassen Productions Inc.** · Coast Salish,

Penelakut Tribe, BC

**Laakkuluk Williamson Bathory** · Inuk, NU

**Lolly de Jonge** · Métis, AB

**Madison Thomas** · Ojibwe/Saulteaux, MB

**Mangittatuarjuk Productions Inc.** · Inuit, NU

**Megan Shott** · Denesuline, AB

**Melaw Nakehk'o** · Dene/Dénesuliné, NT

**Mitchell Saddleback** · Cree, BC

**Nika Productions** · Métis, AB

**Nish Media - 6710875 Canada Inc.** · Kitigan-Zibi

Anishinaabeg, QC

**Nu Media Films Inc.** · Métis, MB

**Orca Cove Media Inc.** · Cowichan, BC

**Paxolotl Media Inc.** · Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, SK

**Phoenix Skye Productions Inc.** · Denesuline, BC

**Redcloud Studios Inc.** · Anishinaabe, ON

**Red Marrow Media Inc.** · Inuit, NU

**Roger Boyer** · Saulteaux/Ojibway, MB

**Rueben Martell** · Waterhen Lake Cree Nation, SK

**Rylan Friday** · Saulteaux Ojibway/Plains Cree/Métis, BC

**Sarah Lowry** · Métis, AB

**Shane Ghostkeeper** · Cree/Métis, AB

**Stephen Gladue** · Metis/Cree, BC

**Suki Motoyi** · Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), AB

**Sydney Pickering** · Lil'wat, BC

**TDEP Productions Ltd.** · Métis/Cree, AB

**Tooth & Nail Pictures Ltd.** · St'at'imc, BC

**Treaty 6 Productions Inc.** · Métis Cree, AB

**Trevor Cameron** · Métis, ON

**Trevor Solway** · Blackfoot, AB

**Tristin Greyeyes** · Nehiyaw, Ojibway, Anishinaabe, BC

**Visceral Village Productions Inc.** · Cree/Métis, BC

**Wayne Lavallee** · Métis, BC

**Yolonda Leigh Skelton** · Gitxsan, BC

“

*ISO is deeply critical to the Canadian media landscape as it has started the process of enabling long-withheld access for Indigenous content-creators. Rather than being limited to low-budgets or scaled-down versions, we are now able to dream big and have our rich and complex stories seen and heard by audiences.”*

— Tasha Hubbard, Filmmaker

“

*“We recently received our ISO funding for our Aunties Dandelion podcast and our upcoming short film titled Vess and we are already witnessing beautiful, tangible outcomes in our work. These resources enable us to tell true Indigenous stories that honour land, language and community while we amplify their reach through workshops with emergent Indigenous storytellers. Our content is dynamic, we are boosting our audience and technology, and the foundation of our organization feels healthy and strong. Nyá:wen thank you ISO. We are so grateful.”*

— The Aunties Dandelion



*The financial support offered by the Indigenous Screen Office has allowed us to implement training and mentored positions across most of our television and film projects (Pour toi Flora, Premier contact, Pulse), which are essential if we wish to create a qualified and sustainable Indigenous film and television workforce in Quebec and across Canada. All of which would have been non-existent otherwise.”*

— Jason Brennan, Producer, Nish Media





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