



# INDIGENOUS SCREEN OFFICE BUREAU DE L'ÉCRAN AUTOCHTONE

The Honourable Pascale St-Onge, M.P.  
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

January 24, 2024

Dear Minister Freeland and Minister St-Onge,

We are writing on behalf of the Indigenous and Canadian screen sector to express our serious concerns about the future of the Indigenous Screen (ISO). ISO's three-year federal funding commitment of \$43m over three years runs out in ten weeks. ISO was founded on a shared mandate and agreement with the Government of Canada. This funding is essential to ensure the ongoing operations of ISO and its ability to support Indigenous companies that are relying on this support. The ISO is a leading new national Indigenous organization that has demonstrated its far-reaching impact. This is the time to invest in its growth, rather than being set up for failure by this government.

Indigenous storytellers and production companies across the country have made great strides in the industry since the ISO was created six years ago but will soon face precarity without a renewed commitment from the government. We are calling on the government to renew its funding to the ISO, so it can continue its vital support to the Indigenous screen sector, a key component to the Government of Canada's stated commitments to reconciliation under UNDRIP and the TRC Calls to Action.

In April 2023, ISO expressed its disappointment that funding for the ISO was not included in the annual budget, putting a leading organization at risk. Now, we would like to remind the government of the importance of the ISO to Canada's screen sector. In the two years since receiving its federal funding allocation, the ISO has delivered over \$24.6 million to over 320 First Nations, Inuit and Métis recipients across Canada. Over 88% of its budget has been delivered directly to Indigenous-owned companies and projects.

The ISO continually goes over and above expectations, providing not just funding for storytelling but creating real economic development, international, and cultural diplomacy opportunities for Indigenous people that benefit all Canadians. ISO is the only independent national Indigenous-led screen funding agency in Canada.

Government investment of \$13m per year to ISO is tiny compared in the context of the industry and its impact, with only 12% of its annual budget spent on operations and program delivery.

The Canadian screen sector relies on the ISO to provide crucial leadership to the industry in support of Indigenous inclusion and broader equity and diversity. The ISO works across the industry with partners including APTN, CBC, Netflix, Google, TIFF, DGC, CMPA, CMF, Telefilm, National Film Board as well as multiple international partners including Sundance, MIT, and many more. The ISO creates innovative programs that create bridges and pathways to these partners and Indigenous storytellers.

In November 2023, the CRTC certified the ISO as an Independent production fund and we are now seeing the results of the investment made by ISO over the past years in the Indigenous production community, with larger budget projects and Indigenous-told stories reaching Canadian audiences, winning awards and gaining international attention. At this crucial time, it is irresponsible for the government to create unnecessary ambiguity and stress for the ISO and the hundreds of Indigenous storytellers who rely on this funding.

The ISO has been central to the acceleration of an exciting momentum for Indigenous storytellers on screen that is consistently inspiring our people and all Canadians. We proudly support the mission of ISO and we demand the government immediately resolve this distressing situation with an early decision on ISO funding.

Sincerely,

We the undersigned,  
The Indigenous and Canadian Screen Industry

### **Signatures of Support**

1. Alexandra Dubé, Coordonnatrice au financement
2. Heather Hatch, Filmmaker, Haida
3. Ryan Atimoyoo, Screenwriter, Littel Pine First Nations
4. Marcel Petit, Artist, Metis
5. Jeremy Daniel Nelson, Video Game Producer, MNO
6. Trevor Cameron, Writer/Director, Metis
7. Joy Haskell, Filmmaker, Tl'azt'en Nation
8. Norm Coyne, Producer, Smelqmix/Syilx - Upper Similkameen Indian Band

9. Nyla Innuksuk, Filmmaker, Inuit
10. Damien Eagle Bear, Producer, Director, Blood Tribe
11. Carole Smith, in solidarity
12. Ashley qilavaq-savard, Artist, Iqaluit
13. Grace Hardy, Project Coordinator, Kikino Metis Settlement
14. Orlando Arriagada (en solidarité), Producteur
15. Natacha Houdart (en solidarité), Relation d'affaires et finances
16. Jordan Molaro, Storyteller/Educator, Metis
17. Tamara Podemski, Writer, Producer, Anishinaabe
18. Deandra Wells, Film, Hairstylist, Blackfoot confederacy; Siksika Nation
19. Roxann Whitebean, Writer/Director, Mohawk of Kahnawake
20. Luc Lainé, Producteur, Huron-Wendate de Wendake
21. Jaime Wescoup, Director/Producer, Long Plain First Nation
22. Lindsay McIntyre, Filmmaker, Inuit
23. Jerry Wolf, Filmmaker, Waywayseecappo First Nation
24. Jennifer Dysart, Filmmaker/Artist, Cree
25. Walter Scott, Artist/Filmmaker
26. Justin Ducharme, Filmmaker, Writer, Producer, Métis
27. Cari Green, Film Producer
28. Chelsey Mark, Filmmaker/screenwriter/actor, Manitoba Métis Federation
29. Jesse Wente, Writer, storyteller, Serpent River First Nation
30. Dennis Jackson, Director
31. Marcel Laporte, Storyteller, Algonquins off reserve
32. Shenaz Baksh "in solidarity", Educator, BIPOC
33. Nadia Mike, Producer- Umik Media Inc, Iqaluit, Nunavut
34. Marsha Knight, Artist, Urban Metis
35. Cole Vandale, Filmmaker, Métis
36. Bruce Miller, Writer, Director, Producer & Game Designer, Matachewan FN, Treaty 9  
Matachewan
37. Trevor Solway, Director, Siksika Nation
38. Kim Wheeler, Multi-Media Producer, Sagkeeng First Nation
39. Khadijah Salawu, in solidarity, Actor/Producer
40. Normand McKay, en solidarité, Producteur

41. Rachel Beaulieu, Director/Producer, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation
42. Miranda Hanus, Media Coordinator, Treat 4
43. Madison Thomas, Filmmaker, Off-reserve member of Pine Creek First Nation
44. Justin Neal, Screenwriter, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw / Squamish Nation
45. Amber-Sekowan Daniels, Showrunner, screenwriter, Band member - Garden Hill First Nation
46. Cathy Allison, Adjunct Professor, Carleton University
47. Gary Joseph, Creative Director, Six Nations of the Grand River
48. Selina C, Producer and Arts Administrator
49. Cris Derksen, Composer/cellist, North Tall Cree Reserve
50. Huw Eirug 'In Solidarity', Chief Executive Officer
51. Nedra Rodrigo (in solidarity), Multi-arts curator, literary translator, Tamil
52. Karrmen Crey, Associate Professor, School of Communication, Simon Fraser University, Stó:lō, Cheam First Nation
53. Károli Grenman in solidarity, Virtual Production Producer
54. Nadia Koromyslova, Directrice de production
55. Michael Fukushima in solidarity, Producer
56. Loretta Sarah Todd, Filmmaker/Producer/Showrunner/IM4 Lab Creative Director, Metis/Cree (Red River Metis)
57. Alanis Obomsawin, National Film Board of Canada - Cultural Attaché First Nations, Producer, Director, Writer, Odanak (Abenaki Nation)
58. Tanner Mark Zurkoski, Filmmaker / Production Management, Cree
59. Kat Cizek, in solidarity, Documentarian, Research Scientist
60. Yolonda Skelton in solidarity, Indigenous Costume Designer, Gitksan Nation
61. Sage Paul, Fashion and costume design & Arts management, English River First Nation
62. Theresa Stevenson, Content Creator, Fisher River Cree Nation, Manitoba
63. Kasey Atcheynum, Indigenous Filmmaker, Artist & Storyteller, Sweetgrass First Nation
64. Jennifer Par, Manager, TELUS Storyhive
65. Christine Kleckner, in solidarity, Producer
66. Jordan Waunch, Filmmaker, Métis Nation
67. Berkley Brady, Filmmaker, Metis

68. T Bannister in solidarity, Director of Programming, R2R Film Festival
69. Sarah Spring, Executive Director of the Documentary Organization of Canada
70. Kaitlyn Redcrow, Filmmaker, Saddle Lake Cree Nation
71. Wade bolduc, Content creator, Gitaxaala nation
72. Katisha Shaw, Producer
73. Russell Gienapp, Director / Cinematographer , Métis Nation of Ontario
74. Tristin Greyeyes, Filmmaker, Film programmer, Nehiyaw, Ojibway, Anishinaabe
75. Renuka Singh "in solidarity", Screenwriter
76. Aretha Greatrix, Filmmaker, Streamer, Content Creator, Kashechewan First Nation
77. Kara Louttit, Policy Analyst, Cree Nation
78. Stephanie Joline , Filmmaker, Inuit
79. Julian BLACK ANTELOPE / HERD of 1 MEDIA, Writer/Director/Producer/Actor, Blood Tribe/Blackfoot Confederacy
80. Sarah Kelley, Writer, Producer and Actress, Algonquins of Pikwakanagan
81. Rebecca Smith (in solidarity), VFX Producer
82. Kenneth Saul, in solidarity, Retired Lawyer, Toronto
83. Meghan Young, Teacher
84. Solara Thanh-Binh Dang, Writer, Director
85. Colin Matthews in solidarity, Writer, Tk'əmlúps
86. Birgit Detscher/ in solidarity , Registered Nurse
87. Jim Compton, Producer, Keeseekoose First Nation
88. Lucie Swan in solidarity, Upholsterer
89. Jessica Harmon "in solidarity", Director
90. Bee Bird, Producer
91. Eva Thomas, Writer, Director & Producer, Walpole Island First Nation
92. Lola Jeanjean-Bastide, Comédienne
93. Jessica Landry, Filmmaker, Red River Métis
94. Creatives Empowered, in solidarity, IBPOC Community Organization in Alberta, IBPOC Community Organization in Alberta
95. Andrew Addison (in solidarity), Vice-President, Communications, Marketing and Membership, Canadian Media Producers Association
96. Dustin McGladrey, Director, Writer, Actor, Editor, & Producer. , Nisga'a Nation
97. Quanah Style , Filmmaker, Wasquesu Productions

98. Marco Fratarcangeli in solidarity, Culture Worker
99. Shannon Walsh, Filmmaker
100. Brenna Latimer, Senior Communications and Public Relations Specialist,  
Indigenous Cultural Safety, Kwakwaka'wakw Nations (BC)
101. Jessica Matten Actress, Producer, Writer, Métis Nation of Ontario
102. Coey Kerr, in solidarity, Business Development, Feature Film Industry, Montreal
103. Jessica Brown, Producer, Nunatsiavut Inuit
104. Lisa Rideout, Director
105. Tanya Brunel, Producer, Métis, Red River region - Manitoba Métis Federation,  
Winnipeg Region, Redboine Local
106. Fei Ren, Actor, director, producer, educator, New Image College
107. Yasmine Mathurin - in solidarity, Writer - Director, Haitian-Canadian filmmaker
108. Hannah Baigent (in solidarity), Administration in Health Care
109. Kennedy Whitford, Student, Kikino Métis Settlement
110. Sarah Mackenzie (in solidarity), Director, MUTEK Forum
111. Rhayne Vermette, Filmmaker, Métis
112. Alexandra Staseson, Founder / Writer / Performer/ Producer , Storied North /  
UBCP-ACTRA / SOCAN
113. April Johnson , Producer/filmmaker , Métis/Cree Muskoday First Nation
114. John Stephen Seymour Jr., Project Manager for Winnipeg Indigenous Filmmakers  
Collective Skodoodisden Project & Trademark Paralegal for Fillmore Riley LLP,  
Peguis First Nation (Band Member) & Hollow Water First Nation (Family Community)
115. Tazeen Ahmed in solidarity, Arts Administrator
116. Javier Lovera, Documentary Filmmaker and Commercial Photographer
117. Maya Annik Bedward in Solidarity , Filmmaker
118. Shalaka Jadhav, in solidarity
119. Rosie Johnnie-Mills, Producer, Registered to Skidegate Haida Gwaii, Father is  
Cowichan
120. Lauren Grant , Producer
121. Jessika Seymour in solidarity, Dog Groomer, Winnipeg
122. Matthew Shoup, Filmmaker
123. Justin Wiebe, Funder, Métis
124. Oliver Darrius Merrick King, Filmmaker, James Smith Cree Nation

125. Andrea Menard, Actor, writer, composer, Métis Nation
126. Mike Gosselin, Screenwriter, Métis Nation BC - North Fraser Chartered Community
127. Noël Habel, Program officer , Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation
128. Erin Sharp in solidarity , Producer
129. Mayumi Yoshida - In solidarity, Director Writer, Creator
130. Nicolas Ayerbe-Barona, in solidarity, Sr. Program Manager, TELUS Storyhive, Vancouver Film and TV industry
131. Irene Bindi, in solidarity , Editor
132. Kristiane Church, Cinematographer, Métis
133. Shaun Cathcart - in solidarity Program Manager, Film Production Training Vancouver
134. Mike O'Connell in solidarity, Chef
135. Sarah Carrier, Filmmaker, Piapot First Nation
136. Stephanie Burbano-in solidarity, Filmmaker
137. Morgan Campbell, Student, Red River Métis
138. Akhaji Zakiya, Researcher, African
139. Jessica Wadsworth in solidarity, Filmmaker, Writer, Producer
140. Richard Courchene, Actor, Sagkeeng First Nation
141. Luke Mistruzzi in solidarity, Filmmaker
142. Ava in solidarity, Student
143. Ryan Steel - in solidarity, Filmmaker
144. Tanya Hoshi, in solidarity, Producer
145. Shaelyn Johnston, Writer/Director, Anishinaabe - Saugeen First Nation
146. Keenan Grom, Filmmaker, Moose Cree First Nation
147. Chantale Garand, Winnipeg, Manitoba
148. Deragh Campbell in solidarity, Actor
149. Radheyen Simonpillai in solidarity, Film and culture critic
150. Shayla Oulette, Artist, Muscowpetung
151. J. Hank White, Stone Cold Productions Writer, Producer, Director, Native Council of Nova Scotia Zone 12
152. Cameron Maitland in Solidarity, Writer / Producer

153. Melanie Windle - in solidarity, Executive Director, Sustainability in film and television
154. Praveena Simonpillai in solidarity, Service Coordinator
155. Emma Buchanan, In Solidarity, Filmmaker & Video Creator
156. Leigha White
157. Jessica Hallenbeck, Producer
158. Cara Denyer - in solidarity, Assistant Director
159. Linda Fong, in solidarity, Business & Rights
160. Cody Blacksmith, Filmmaker - Director - Sounder Recordist, Pimicikamak - "Cross Lake"
161. Adrienne Lynis, Taproot actors academy student, Kikino métis settlement
162. Ana Hopkins- in solidarity, Actor/Director/Writer, St. John's
163. Justin Delorme, Composer, Red River Métis
164. Renae Morriseau, Writer, Actress, Director, Cree and Saulteaux - Peguis First Nation
165. Ellen Reimer in solidarity, Producer
166. Ritchie Hemphill, Filmmaker, Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw
167. Barbara Todd Hager, Documentary Producer/Director, Metis Nation BC
168. Kassia Ward, Animator, writer, director, Enoch Cree Nation
169. Tlaa'kwa Hul'puulth - Carmen Thompson, Costume Designer & Showrunner, Diitidaht First Nation
170. Rebecca Yang in solidarity , Producer
171. Stephanie Delorme-Forsman
172. Darla Contois, Actor, Misipawistik Cree Nation
173. Sarah Von Gertzen, Filmmaker, Deh Gah Got'ie Frist Nation - living in Amiskwaciwaskahikan
174. Ryan, Retail , Metis citizen
175. Billy George Williams, Indigenous Film Production Company: BGW FILM STUDIOS INC, Member
176. Avril Jacobson in solidarity, Editor
177. Gregory Coyes, Film Producer/Director, Metis/Cree, St Albert, AB
178. Shasha McArthur, Filmmaker PR, Nakota #68, Treaty 4
179. Elena Basford in solidarity, Costume Designer, Winnipeg Female Filmmakers

180. Anjun Jia, in solidarity, NYU Tisch student
181. Jonathan Lawrence, Filmmaker, Peguis
182. Jason Brennan, Producer, Nish Media, Algonkin, Kitigan Zibi
183. Elise Simard, Filmmaker - Film Animation professor
184. Aisling Chin-Yee, Filmmaker, Jamaican Chinese Irish
185. Christine Monague "in solidarity", Indigenous Peer Support, Chimnissing, Beausoleil First Nation
186. Natasha Holmes - in solidarity, Program Coordinator
187. Cherie Dimaline, Writer/Producer, Georgian Bay Métis
188. Rhiannon Seath, in solidarity
189. Amy Fung, in solidarity, Film programmer and educator
190. Kahstoserakwathe Paulette Moore, Filmmaker/Podcaster, Kanyen'kehà:ka from Six Nations of the Grand River
191. Gail Maurice, Director, Writer, Producer, Actor, Beauval, Saskatchewan
192. Catherine Bainbridge in solidarity, Director, producer and writer
193. Carolyn Shaughnessy in solidarity, Marketing content specialist
194. Coty Savard, Producer, Metis Nation of Alberta
195. Kristine Mifsud in solidarity, Artist
196. Erica Daniels, Producer / Director, Peguis First Nation
197. Cheyenne Bruneau, Production Coordinator, Cree & Cheyenne
198. Amar Wala, Filmmaker/Producer
199. Gavin Seal - In Solidarity, Filmmaker
200. Danielle Taschereau Mamers, Research Manager, Toronto
201. Tanis Wheeler, Manager, Winnipeg
202. Allan Clarke, Consultant, Wiikwemkoong Unceded First Nation
203. Omid Moterassed, in solidarity, Filmmaker
204. Liz Hover (in solidarity), Administration / communications
205. Cheryl Ashton, Training professional
206. Chris Vajcner, in solidarity, Director of Partner Support
207. Gavin Baird, Filmmaker, Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. Prince Albert, SK
208. Kadon Douglas (in solidarity), Executive Director
209. Kevin Eastwood in solidarity, Director/Producer
210. Them bani Mdluli, funding recipient (2021), in solidarity, Writer & Filmmaker

211. Damien Nelson in solidarity, Press Agent
212. Jill Krajewski in solidarity, Culture writer
213. Chelsea McMullan in solidarity, Filmmaker
214. Adam Garnet Jones, Director of TV Content - APTN, Cree/Metis
215. Ursula Lawson in solidarity, Senior Program Manager
216. Jordan Gurniak, Operations Administrator - National Screen Institute, Winnipeg
217. HaeAhn Kwon in solidarity, Assistant Professor, NSCAD University
218. Heyishi Zhang, in solidarity, Writer/Director
219. Tamara Shannon, in solidarity, Marketing executive, Toronto
220. June Scudeler, Assistant Professor, Métis
221. Jenn Paul, in solidarity, Director: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging
222. Liz Bragale in solidarity, Writer, director, production assistant
223. Rayna Masterton, Actor/ director, Red River Métis
224. Janelle Tougas, Film worker - Props, art department, design, Franco-manitobaine, settler
225. Shaylyn Plett in solidarity, Arts worker
226. Jen Sorns in solidarity, Teacher
227. Erin Burke - in solidarity, Development & Production Executive
228. MJ Laing, Writer, Kanyen'kehá:ka, Six Nations of the Grand River
229. Mily Mumford, Writer/director
230. Emily in solidarity, University lecturer
231. Stefan Dixon, in solidarity, Teacher, Multicultural Canadian
232. Kevin Nguyen "In solidarity", CPA
233. Jamie Manning in solidarity, Film Producer
234. Viktor Zaishlyi in solidarity, Barista
235. Hannah Donegan in solidarity, Producer
236. Brittany LeBorgne, Actor/Producer, Mohawks of Kahnawake
237. Madison McLean, in solidarity, Programs Finance Manager - National Screen Institute - Canada Winnipeg
238. Daniel Smith Arnold, Producer, Writer, Actor
239. Danielle Audette, Program Manager, Red River Metis
240. Jason Rayner, in solidarity, Writer, Director, Actor
241. Abiola Agbayewa in solidarity

242. Marie-Claire Granger, Actor, Métis
243. Amy Reitsma in solidarity, Arts worker/ Program Manager NSI Actor
244. Emily Holtby, Senior Director, GR, CMPA
245. Daniel Morin in solidarity, Producer
246. Frédérique Alain, en solidarité, Productrice
247. Ariane Alain, Coordinatrice
248. Marie-Michelle Emond, Directrice des finances
249. Amy Miller in solidarity, Producer, Director, Writer
250. Shelley Niro, Filmmaker, Six Nations of the Grand River
251. Eleanor Noble, In solidarity, President, Actra National
252. Kale Swampy, Aspiring filmmaker, Winnipeg/ Sagkeeng Manitoba
253. Andrew Konoff , Filmmaker, Métis
254. Geoff Horner, in solidarity, Arts Professional, Haida Gwaii islands community
255. Jay Cardinal Villeneuve, Filmmaker/Actor/Dad, Métis Nation of BC
256. Evelyn Pakinewatik, Director, Nipissing FN
257. Neil Macdonald in solidarity, Film Commissioner and Manager, Yukon Media Development Whitehorse, Yukon
258. Uzezi Odharo in solidarity, Associate Producer - Special Programs
259. Katannya Yee in solidarity, Administration
260. Desiree Brightnose, Filmmaker, Winnipeg
261. Andrina Turenne, Artist, Red River Métis - (MMF & UNMSJM)
262. Jasmine Mae Elizabeth Paul, Student at Tap roots Actors Academy, Kikino Métis Settlement
263. Heather Condo, Director, Micmacs of Gesgapegiag, Quebec
264. Meredith Stapon, Director of Communications, Teach For Canada-Gakinaamaage
265. Claire MacKinnon in solidarity, Producer
266. D. St Amour, in solidarity, Writer/editor
267. Sarah Ellis Fox, Screenwriter, Metis
268. Jacqueline Hynes in solidarity, Filmmaker
269. Sage Daniels, Writer, Ojibwe
270. Ernest Webb, Filmmaker, Chisasibi
271. Trish Cooper In Solidarity, Theatre Professional

272. Adriana Chartrand, Lead, Indigenous Initiatives Telefilm Canada, Red River Metis (Michif) from St Laurent, MB.
273. Jon Montes (in solidarity), Producer, Settler
274. Omorose Osagie in solidarity, Filmmaker
275. Janice Dawe "in solidarity", Business owner, DOC
276. Ken Tsui in solidarity, Production Executive for Documentary, TELUS originals  
TELUS originals
277. Riley Gladue, Youth at Taproot Actors Academy, Kikino Metis Settlement
278. Katie McKay, in solidarity, Documentary Producer
279. Vee Di Gregorio, Line Producer Eye Steel Film
280. Jennifer Baichwal, in solidarity, Documentary Filmmaker
281. Jordan Wanakamik, Filmmaker
282. Drea Cherry, ACTRA performer, Metis
283. Bob Moore, in solidarity, Producer
284. Sage Petahtegoose, Writer/Filmmaker, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek
285. Richael Laking, Artist, Dakota/Irish/Toronto born
286. Danis Goulet, Filmmaker, Cree/Metis
287. Lenore Claire Herrem, Artist
288. Steven Davies
289. Tyler Hagan