



TALENTFUND

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

TALENTFUND

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF EMERGING FILMMAKERS

The Talent Fund, a private donation fund administered by Telefilm Canada and led by a national advisory committee, is dedicated to supporting emerging storytellers. Since its launch in 2012, the Fund, with support from donors from coast to coast to coast has raised \$17 million, helping to bring 150 films and web series to life. Its mission is to support and encourage emerging talent, those at the forefront of the country's creative economy—talent whose stories continue to add to the enrich Canada's cultural legacy.

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF CONTENT CREATORS

Through Telefilm's Talent to Watch Program, the Talent Fund enables an innovative approach to national film funding, unlike any other talent development program in the world. Working with over 60 industry partners from across the country, such as the Canadian Film Centre, Hot Docs, Inside Out LGBT Film Festival, Mel Hoppenheim School of Cinema - Concordia University, imagineNATIVE, Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative, Reelworld Film Festival, L'inis and the National Screen Institute, among others, the Fund helps foster the discovery of emerging Canadian talent.

The objective of Talent to Watch, supported by the Talent Fund, is to:

- support first feature films and web projects from emerging filmmakers
- support innovation and encourage the use of digital marketing and distribution strategies
- help emerging talent in the development of their professional portfolio
- accelerate the careers of those with demonstrated success
- foster a culture of mentorship

2019-2020 HIGHLIGHTS

From unveiling a refreshed online "look" at thetalentfund.ca, to announcing a new cohort of diverse storytellers from across the country, to helping our filmmakers premiere their Talent Fund-supported projects at festivals such as TIFF, FIN Atlantic International Film Festival, Festival du nouveau cinéma, VIFF and Slamdance... what a year it has been!

BY THE NUMBERS

- Telefilm Canada invested \$3.82M to support first-time feature films and web series
- Talent Fund donors contributed more than \$2.29M to support the creation of new stories from coast to coast
- More than 30 new features were supported, with the help of over 60 industry partners, who helped discover emerging filmmakers from across the country

Since its world premiere at TIFF 2019, Heather Young's acclaimed debut feature *Murmur* has won several prizes and honours on the festival circuit, among them the Slamdance Film Festival's grand jury award for narrative feature, in Park City, Utah; the FIPRESCI Discovery Prize at TIFF; Best Atlantic feature, director and screenwriting at FIN Atlantic International Film Festival; and a Canada's Top Ten selection. Most recently, *Murmur* was nominated for a John Dunning Best First Feature Film Award at the 2020 Canadian Screen Awards.

TALENT FUND

After an extraordinary journey at festivals around the world, Jasmin Mozaffari's feature *Firecrackers* received the awards for best direction and editing at the 2019 Canadian Screen Awards. The film had been nominated in four categories.

The first film under Talent to Watch's Fast Track Stream was awarded in 2019-2020 to *Mother's Day* by Luis De Filippis. This stream provides automatic funding, supported directly by the Talent Fund, to projects by an emerging director having previously directed a short that has won a prize at a recognized film festival. In 2017, De Filippis won Sundance Film Festival's Short Film Special Jury Award for *For Nonna Anna*.

Easy Land, by Sanja Živković, premiered at TIFF 2019. Julie Strifler, the film's producer, was nominated for the 2019 CMPA Indiescreen Kevin Tierney Emerging Producer Award.

Sashinka, by Kristina Wagenbauer, was nominated in three categories at the Gala Québec Cinéma 2019— best actress, best supporting actress and best casting. The film was also nominated at the Canadian Screen Awards 2019 in the categories Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role, Achievement in Editing, and Achievement in Music – Original Song.

Ruthless Souls, by Indigenous director Madison Thomas, was nominated for a Moon Jury award at imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival 2019.

Winnifred Jong's web series *Tokens* premiered to a sold-out audience at the TIFF Bell Lightbox and was released worldwide the same day on Facebook and YouTube. The series' first season has since then been selected in a dozen web festivals around the world, and has won several awards, including Best Comedy Series at Minnesota WebFest and Best Director in a Comedy at Asia Web Awards. *Tokens* was nominated at the 2020 ACTRA Awards in Toronto for Outstanding Performance – Female (Jessica Greco) and Members' Choice Series Ensemble. It also picked up four 2020 Canadian Screen Award nominations, including Best Direction, Web Program or Series, and Best Writing, Web Program or Series.

L.A Tea Time, a documentary from Quebec filmmaker Sophie Bédard Marcotte, was selected at the Vancouver International Film Festival, Festival du nouveau cinema, Festival international du cinéma francophone en Acadie, International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam and Visions du Réel.

The 410, a drama series directed by Renuka Jeyapalan and starring Supinder Wraich, and streaming on CBC Gem, received three 2020 Canadian Screen Award nominations: for Best Web Program or Series, Fiction; Best Writing, Web Program or Series; and Best Lead Performance, Web Program or Series.

31 PROJECTS

in 2019-2020 from new, diverse voices from every corner of the country, funded through the Talent to Watch program (\$3.82 million invested in 2019-2020)

OVER 17%

growth in philanthropic donations versus 2018-2019

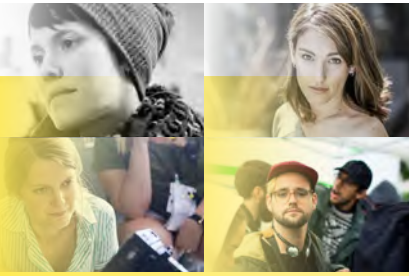
\$2.29 MILLION

raised in support of Talent to Watch, including support from principal partners Bell Media, Corus, Quebecor and the generosity of donors from across the country

TALENT FUND IGNITING CAREERS



Talent to Watch alumni **PASCAL PLANTE** (*Nadia, Butterfly*) and **ASHLEY MCKENZIE** (*Queens of the Qing Dynasty*) received automatic funding (\$500,000) from Telefilm Canada to produce their second feature.



Over the past year, other Talent to Watch alumni released their second feature: **SONIA BONSPILLE BOILEAU** (*Rustic Oracle*), **AMY JO JOHNSON** (*Tammy's Always Dying*), **GENEVIÈVE DULUDE-DE CELLES** (*Une Colonie* – Berlinale Crystal Bear Award), **PATRICE LALIBERTÉ** (*Jusqu'au déclin* – Netflix's first original Québécois production)



"I have a lot owed to the Talent Fund and Telefilm because they funded *Firecrackers*, my first feature. And that feature is basically a launching point for my career which was played at the Toronto International Film Festival and travelled around the world, winning awards – and now I can call myself a working director who has opportunities both here and in the United States."

– **JASMIN MOZAFFARI**,
writer-director, *Firecrackers*
(Ontario)

THE TALENT FUND BY THE NUMBERS SINCE 2012.

300+

EMERGING CREATORS SUPPORTED

(DIRECTOR, PRODUCER, WRITER)

\$17M

RAISED

130+

AWARDS WORLDWIDE

150 SUPPORTED FILMS AND WEB SERIES

31

PROJECTS FROM COAST TO COAST
WERE FUNDED IN 2019-2020

The 2019-2020 Talent to Watch titles are in various stages of pre-production and production

Title	Region	Lead producer	Lead director	Lead scriptwriter
ANYOX	British Columbia	Alysha Seriani	Jessica Johnson	Ryan Ermacora
BACK HOME	British Columbia	Joella Cabalu	Nisha Platzer	Nisha Platzer
BEST FRIEND ME	British Columbia	Arnold Lim	Ana de Lara	Andrea Marie Swallow
CETTE MAISON	Quebec	Félix Dufour-Laperrière	Miryam Charles	Miryam Charles
COFFEE EXPRESS	Manitoba	Eva Thomas	Roger Boyer	Roger Boyer
CONCRETE VALLEY	Ontario	Sehrezade Mian, Meelad Moaphi	Antoine Bourges	Antoine Bourges
DOUBLES WITH SLIGHT PEPPER	Ontario	Mark Sirju	Ian Harnarine	Ian Harnarine
ERIN'S GUIDE TO KISSING GIRLS	Ontario	Claire Allore	Julianna Notten	Julianna Notten
FOOD FOR THE REST OF US	Northwest Territories	Jerri Thrasher	Caroline Cox	Tiffany Ayalik
FRAMING AGNES	Ontario	Shant Joshi	Chase Joynt	Morgan M. Page
FURTHER THAN THE EYE CAN SEE	New Brunswick	Tracey Lavigne	Ryan O'Toole	Ryan O'Toole
GABOR	Quebec	Line Sander Egede	Joannie Lafrenière	Joannie Lafrenière
I AM SYD STONE	Nova Scotia / New Brunswick	Gharrett Paon	Denis Theriault	Denis Theriault
I LIKE MOVIES	Ontario	Victoria Lean	Chandler Levack	Chandler Levack
INDIGITHREADS	Manitoba	Ryan Wilson	Adeline Bird	Adeline Bird
INTERSECTION	Manitoba	Joseph Novak	Cecilia Araneda	Cecilia Araneda
JOUVENCELLES	Quebec	Audrey D. Laroche	Fanie Pelletier	Fanie Pelletier
LÀ OÙ TOUT SE RASSEMBLE	Quebec	Jean-Philippe Archibald	Guillaume Langlois	Guillaume Langlois
MOTHER'S DAY	Ontario	Andrew Moir	Luis De Filippis	Luis De Filippis & Andrew Moir
NICHOLE	Quebec	Jerémie Boucher	Gabriel Savignac	Guenièvre Sandré
PASSAGE	Quebec	Audrey Fallu	Sarah Baril Gaudet	Sarah Baril Gaudet
QUICKENING	Ontario	Yona Strauss	Haya Waseem	Haya Waseem
SHYLO	Ontario	Sidney Leeder	Walter Woodman	Patrick Cederberg
THE CERTAINTY OF SYMMETRY	British Columbia	Kelton Stepanowich	Jaren Brandt Bartlett	Jaren Brandt Bartlett
THE MAIDEN	Ontario	Daiva Zalnieriunas	Graham Foy (Fantavious Fritz)	Graham Foy (Fantavious Fritz)
THE OAK TREE	Ontario	Samiramis Kia	Samiramis Kia	Samiramis Kia
TRIBE	Ontario	Alexandra Roberts	Joseph Amenta	Joseph Amenta
VERONA	Ontario	Maeve Kern	Sebastian Back	Sebastian Back
WHALE SANCTUARY PROJECT	Nova Scotia	Melani Wood	Kevin Fraser	Kevin Fraser
WINDY GUN	Quebec	Marc-Antoine Lemire	Marc-Antoine Lemire	Marc-Antoine Lemire
ZIPOLITO	Quebec	Omar Elhamy	Ariane Falardeau St-Amour	Paul Chotel

TALENT FUND

In addition to supporting the production of first features and web series, the Talent Fund supported international initiatives, focusing on increasing export opportunities for emerging content creators, including:

- Annecy Festival and the International Animation Film Market (MIFA)
- Kidscreen Summit
- MIPCOM
- Palm Springs International Film Festival

The Talent Fund supported bootcamps for emerging filmmakers in Toronto and Vancouver, hosted by Telefilm Canada, and included experts in the industry to share advice and expertise with Talent to Watch recipients. The Talent Fund also participated in an online panel, hosted by William F. White International, where emerging filmmakers discussed their experiences with the Talent to Watch Program.



TALENT FUND



“The Talent Fund and the Talent to Watch Program gave me the resources and the freedom to make my first feature the way I wanted to make it. This program allows emerging filmmakers to feel like making a feature film is possible and it is vital for the support and encouragement of new and exciting artistic voices in Canada.”

– **HEATHER YOUNG**, Director/Writer, *Murmur* (Nova Scotia)



“When I made this movie and saw roughly 40 people of colour on set, that’s the day I really felt I was doing what I need to be doing. A program like [Talent to Watch] allows you to not only be the artist you want to be, but be the artist you need to be.”

– **CORY BOWLES**, writer-director, *Black Cop* (Nova Scotia)



“I strove to make a film which represented the delicate themes of mental health and immigration in a truthful way, without any compromises to the artistic vision. As challenging as it could be for an ambitious script like Easy Land to come to life, The Talent to Watch Program gave us the support and freedom to make the film we had imagined in the way that we had imagined it.”

– **SANJA ŽIVKOVIĆ**, Director/Writer, *Easy Land* (Ontario)



“What an inspiring journey and learning experience! To have such an opportunity to not only express our art but to be so well supported through the process is extraordinary. We’re so thankful to have Telefilm on our side! Merci beaucoup!”

– **COREY LORANGER**, Producer, *Abigaëlle et le date coaching* (Alberta)



“Talent to Watch trains diverse individuals from a range of communities, the LGBT community, the First Nation/Métis and those storytellers that haven’t been given the same opportunities as the rest of Canada.”

– **JORDAN MOLARO** (Métis/Ojibway), director, *Billy* (Manitoba)

TALENT FUND

TALENT FUND MOMENTS

Over the course of 2019-2020, the Talent Fund participated in several events in support of emerging filmmakers. These included an unveiling of the 2019-2020 cohort at the offices of Entertainment One, an annual fundraiser at the residence of Carol and Paul Hill in Indian Wells, and a Toronto cocktail reception hosted by Vincenzo Guzzo at the offices of Gluskin Sheff. A special thank you to donors and supporters for their continuing commitment.

In June 2019, Telefilm Canada and the Talent Fund announced the 2019 finalists selected under its Talent to Watch Program. **31 first feature films and narrative web projects** were selected from across the country. The event was co-hosted by Christine Magee (Chair of the Talent Fund Advisory Committee, Co-Founder & Co-Chair of Sleep Country), Patrick Roy (President, Theatrical, Film, Entertainment One & President, Les Films Séville), Christa Dickenson (Telefilm Canada’s Executive Director), Talent Fund Advisory Committee members, David Aisenstat, John Bitove, Carol R. Hill, Sandi Treiving, Kimberley Walker and E.J. Alon (Telefilm Canada’s Director, Talent Fund).



In January 2020, Carol Hill, Advisory Committee member, and Paul Hill hosted their 8th annual Talent Fund fundraiser at their Indian Wells residence, along with long-time donors and new friends of the Fund. Emerging filmmakers Sanja Živković (writer-director, *Easy Land*), Julie Strifler (producer, *Easy Land*) and Heather Young (writer-director, *Murmur*)—all selected by the Palm Springs International Film Festival for their U.S. premiere—were also in attendance. **The event raised more than \$100,000.**

In September 2019, Telefilm Canada and Birks partnered for the Birks Diamond Tribute to the Year’s Women in Film. **This year’s honourees reflected Canada’s rich talent and the diversity** of our storytellers from coast to-coast-to-coast, including Talent to Watch alumna Jasmin Mozaffari.



In November 2019, Advisory Committee member and Cinémas Guzzo CEO Vincenzo Guzzo hosted a private reception at the offices of Gluskin Sheff. Special guests included award-winning producer Robert Lantos, Talent Fund stakeholders and emerging filmmakers.

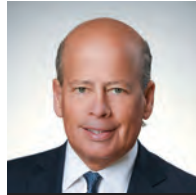
TALENT FUND

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

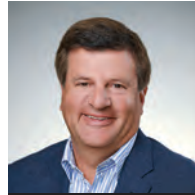
The Talent Fund is led by an Advisory Committee of business leaders, city builders and philanthropists from across the country. Telefilm is indebted to this extraordinary group of individuals for their generosity of time, donations and leadership.

**Christine Magee**

Chair, Advisory Committee
Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Sleep Country (Ontario)

**David Aisenstat**

President & CEO,
Keg Restaurants Ltd.
(British Columbia)

**John Bitove**

CEO, Obelysk Inc.
(Ontario)

**Mark Dobbin**

Founder & President,
Killick Capital Inc.
(Newfoundland and Labrador)

**Margaret Anne Fountain**

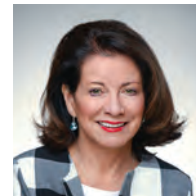
Philanthropist
and art activist
(Nova Scotia)

**Dr. Anil Gupta**

Medical Director of
Clinical Cardiology,
Trillium Health Centre
(Ontario)

**Vincenzo Guzzo**

President and CEO
Cinemas Guzzo
(Quebec)

**Carol R. Hill**

Director of
Communications
Harvard
Developments Inc.
(Saskatchewan)

**Hartley T. Richardson**

President & CEO,
James Richardson
& Sons, Limited
(Manitoba)

**Sandi Treliving**

Philanthropist
(British Columbia)

**Kimberley Walker**

Philanthropist
(Ontario)

The Talent Fund acknowledges the incredible leadership of founding chair **HARTLEY T. RICHARDSON** and Advisory member **MARGARET ANNE FOUNTAIN**, who stepped down from the Committee in 2020. Thank you for your passion, dedication and support of emerging Canadian filmmakers.

OUR PARTNERS AND DONORS**PRINCIPAL PARTNERS**


PREMIER PATRONS


- Armour Group
- Cadillac Fairview
- CIBC
- Directors Guild of Canada – Ontario
- Enbridge
- Entertainment One
- The Globe and Mail
- Gluskin Sheff
- National Bank
- Pinewood Toronto Studios
- Power Corporation of Canada
- RBC Foundation
- Richardson Foundation
- State Window Corporation
- Stewart McKelvey
- TD Bank
- Viewpoint Foundation
- Mark and Sandra Dobbin
- Carol and Paul Hill
- Larry and Carolyn Hursh
- Jack Gallagher Education Fund
- Donald K. Johnson
- Christine and Al Magee
- Ram and Lakshmi Raju
- Sanford and Deborah Riley
- Senft Family Foundation
- Ian Telfer and Nancy Burke
- Sandi and Jim Treliving
- Steven Funk
- Dr. Anil Gupta
- Vincenzo Guzzo
- Brian and Ruth Hastings
- Kim Walker and James Villeneuve
- Anonymous

Major gift donors as of March 31, 2020.

For the full list of supporters, visit thetalentfund.ca.

TALENT FUND FINANCIAL REVIEW

REVENUES

Through the generosity of its growing family of supporters, the Talent Fund raised \$2.29 million:

- \$714 thousand from Bell Media, \$808 thousand from Corus Entertainment and \$239 thousand from Quebecor Media (TVA Group Inc.), in accordance with the CRTC tangible benefits and long-term financing agreements
- \$530 thousand from philanthropists and corporate partners from across Canada

Revenue sources

(in thousands of dollars)

\$2,291



Corus Entertainment

Bell Media

Quebecor Media (TVA Group Inc.)

Other donors

\$808

\$714

\$239

\$530

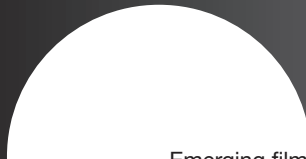
INVESTMENTS

The Talent Fund invested \$2.33 million to support the production and promotion of projects. The Fund funded 54% of the 2019-2020 Talent to Watch Program and continued to focus on discoverability activities.

Allocation of funds – Production

(in thousands of dollars)

\$2,081



Emerging filmmakers **100%**

Allocation of funds – Promotion

(in thousands of dollars)

\$245



Exporting talent

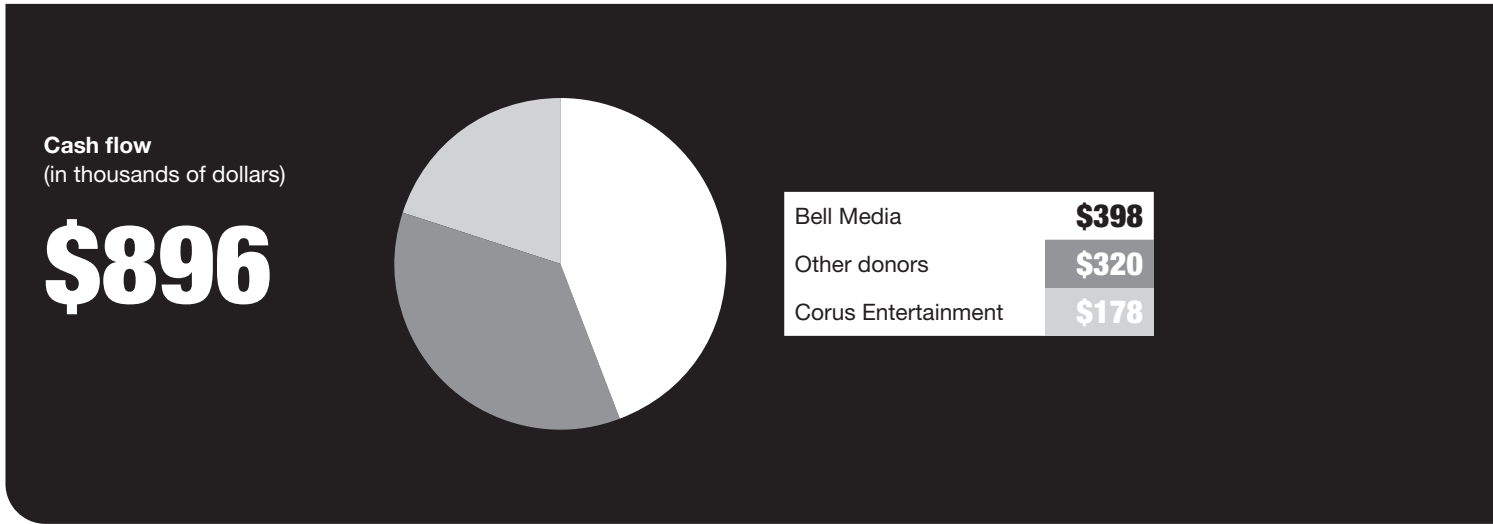
86%

Innovation and digital distribution

14%

TALENT FUND

To support previously committed funding obligations, the Talent Fund maintained a balance of nearly \$896 thousand distributed as follows:



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FISCAL YEAR

ENDED MARCH 31, 2020

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Fiscal year ended March 31, 2020

The amounts shown in the accompanying tables to the financial statements are expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars unless otherwise indicated.

TALENT FUND

The transactions specific to the Talent Fund are shown in the tables below:

	Other donors	Bell Media	Corus Entertainment	TVA Group Inc.	Total 2020	Total 2019
REVENUES						
Donations	530	-	-	-	530	451
Contributions received	-	714	808	239	1,761	2,165
Deferred revenues	-	-	-	-	-	9
	530	714	808	239	2,291	2,625
ASSISTANCE EXPENSES						
Talent to Watch program	533	714	595	239	2,081	1,874
Promotion program and national and international promotional activities	32	-	213	-	245	873
	565	714	808	239	2,326	2,747
Deficit for the year	(35)	-	-	-	(35)	(122)
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	53	-	-	-	53	175
Accumulated surplus, end of year	18	-	-	-	18	53

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020, the Corporation incurred \$473,600 in expenses related to business development and promotion of the Fund (\$257,470 for the previous fiscal year). The contributions of Bell Media, Corus Entertainment and TVA Group Inc. are subject to external restrictions.

	Other donors	Bell Media	Corus Entertainment	TVA Group Inc.	Total 2020	Total 2019
DEFERRED REVENUES						
Balance, beginning of year	-	-	-	-	-	9
Contributions received	-	714	808	239	1,761	2,165
Contractual commitments recognized in revenues	-	(714)	(808)	(239)	(1,761)	(2,174)
Balance, end of year	-	-	-	-	-	-
CASH - TALENT FUND						
Balance, beginning of year	106	573	53	-	732	1,465
Receipts	713	714	808	239	2,474	2,616
Contractual payments under financial assistance programs	(499)	(889)	(683)	(239)	(2,310)	(3,349)
Balance, end of year	320	398	178	-	896	732

As at March 31, 2020, the Talent Fund is contractually committed to pay a total amount of \$878,400 (\$860,300 for the previous fiscal year) and has no due from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (\$183,300 for the previous fiscal year).

TALENTFUND

FONDS DES TALENTS

PRINCIPAL PARTNERS

BellMedia **corus.**