



TALENTFUND

TELEFILM **PARTNER**
C A N A D A **OF CHOICE**

2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

SUPPORTING
THE NEXT
GENERATION
OF CANADIAN FILMMAKERS

TALENT FUND

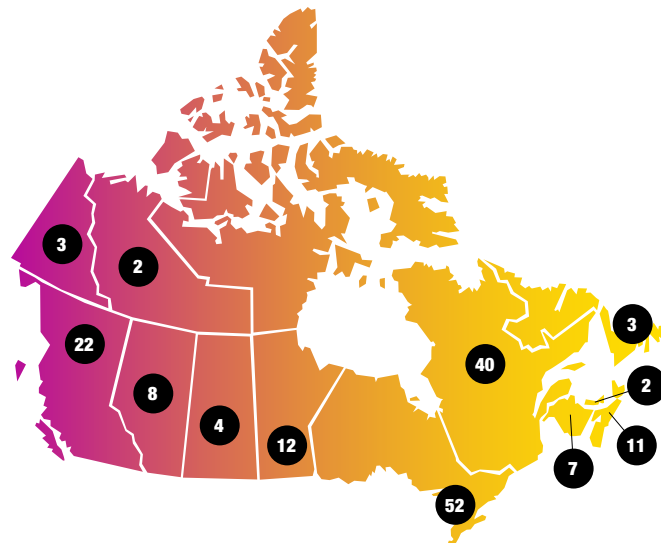
FONDS DES TALENTS

THE TALENT FUND IS A PRIVATE DONATION FUND DEDICATED TO THE DISCOVERY, DEVELOPMENT, AND PROMOTION OF A TALENTED AND DIVERSE GROUP OF EMERGING FILMMAKERS AND CONTENT CREATORS. ADMINISTERED BY TELEFILM CANADA AND SUPPORTED BY A NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE FUND AND ITS DONORS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE INVESTED OVER \$17 MILLION IN FILM PROJECTS SINCE 2012. THE TALENT FUND HAS HELPED LAUNCH THE CAREERS OF OVER **360 FILMMAKERS**, SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF **165 FILMS** THAT HAVE WON NEARLY **180 AWARDS** IN CANADA AND ABROAD.

The objective of Telefilm's Talent to Watch program, supported by the Talent Fund, is to:

- **SUPPORT** first-time filmmakers from across the country;
- **HELP** emerging talent in the development of their professional portfolio;
- **PRIORITIZE** emerging creators from underrepresented communities;
- **FOSTER** a culture of mentorship.

Number of completed Talent Fund–supported films by province and territory, since 2012.



YEAR IN REVIEW

- Telefilm Canada and the Talent Fund allocated **\$2.3 MILLION** in COVID-19 assistance to support a total of **58 PREVIOUSLY FUNDED TALENT TO WATCH PROJECTS**²². This top-up funding enabled filmmaking teams to complete the filming and production of their projects during the pandemic.
- In total, the Talent Fund raised over **\$812,000**, including \$600,000 from Harold Greenburg Fund's French-language Program.

This year, the Talent Fund provided additional financial assistance to existing Talent to Watch recipients with projects in development, primarily to cover unforeseen expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This ensured they were able to resume their projects despite industry disruptions.

After extensive pan-Canadian consultations, the Talent to Watch program was relaunched for 2022-23 with significant and exciting changes to optimize its impact, including: increased assistance of \$250,000 (fiction feature films) and \$150,000 (documentaries); expanded eligibility requirements to welcome broad screen-based experience; a new, more accessible direct application stream for underrepresented filmmakers; and a mentorship program for all participants, administered by the National Screen Institute and the National Institute of Image and Sound (INIS).

The Talent Fund is looking forward to supporting a new cohort under the relaunched program in 2022-23, which will more equitably and effectively foster the next generation of filmmakers: **BRINGING CANADIAN STORIES AND CREATIVITY — IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY — TO SCREENS EVERYWHERE.**

22. Talent to Watch Program: Of the 58 past Talent to Watch projects receiving additional financial support, 43 projects received funding from the Talent Fund.

2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS



SCARBOROUGH

SHASHA NAKHAI and **RICH WILLIAMSON**'s *Scarborough*, based on Catherine Hernandez's bestselling novel, made a big impression at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). The film won the Shawn Mendes Foundation Changemaker Award, received a special mention for the Amplify Voices Award, and was first runner up for the People's Choice Award. *Scarborough* was also named by TIFF as one of Canada's Top Ten films of 2021 and brought home eight Canadian Screen Awards, including Best Motion Picture, Best Direction and the John Dunning Best First Feature Film Award.



ISLANDS

MARTIN EDRALIN's critically acclaimed *Islands* received additional accolades this year, including the RBC Emerging Canadian Artist Award: Grand Jury Prize at Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF) and the Audience Choice Feature Film Award at the Toronto Reel Asian Film Festival. *Islands* received three Canadian Screen Award nominations, including the John Dunning Best First Feature Award, and the film was selected by *The Globe & Mail* as one of the best Canadian films of 2021.



LE BRUIT DES MOTEURS

PHILIPPE GRÉGOIRE's *Le Bruit des moteurs* (*The Noise of Engines*) had its world premiere at the San Sebastián Film Festival and won the Quebecor Prize for most promising feature film in the national competition at the Festival du nouveau cinema. It also won the International Jury's Special Award at La Roche-sur-Yon International Film Festival and the Premio Competencia Award at Los Cabos International Film Festival. *Le Bruit des moteurs* received three Canadian Screen Award nominations, including the John Dunning Best First Feature Award and Achievement in Direction.



WILDHOOD

After developing their first feature film with the support of the Talent Fund (*North Mountain*), **BRETEN HANNAM** returned in 2021 with *Wildhood*, a story about a two-spirit teenager, Link, as he discovers his sexuality and rediscovers his Mi'kmaw heritage. *Wildhood* debuted at TIFF and picked up awards at FIN for screenwriting, acting, directing, and best feature. The film also received six Canadian Screen Award nominations, including Best Motion Picture, Achievement in Direction, and Original Screenplay.



JUMP, DARLING

PHIL CONNELL's debut feature, ***Jump, Darling***, premiered at Inside Out 2SLGBTQIA+ Film Festival and was selected by BFI Flare London LGBTQ Film Festival for its international premiere. The 2SLGBTQIA+ family drama features the last performance of Academy Award-winning screen icon, Cloris Leachman.



WOCHIIGII IO: END OF THE PEACE

HEATHER HATCH's ***Wochiigii Io: End of the Peace*** opened the Planet in Focus International Environmental Film Festival and screened at the St. John's International Women's Film Festival.



GABOR

Feature-length documentary *Gabor* by **JOANNIE LAFRENIÈRE** made its world premiere for the closing night of the Montreal International Documentary Festival, attended by the talented photographer and main protagonist, **GABOR SZILASI**.



FRAMING AGNES

CHASE JOYNT's *Framing Agnes* debuted at Sundance Film Festival to an ecstatic response, winning both the NEXT Innovator Award and the Audience Award (in the NEXT category). This was the first time a Talent to Watch film was awarded at Sundance.



CETTE MAISON

Cette maison (*This House*) by **MIRYAM CHARLES** made its world premiere at the Berlin International Film Festival, and was nominated for the GWFF Best First Feature Award.

FINALISTS FOR THE **KEVIN TIERNEY EMERGING PRODUCER AWARD**

Producers **MARTIN EDRALIN** and **PRISCILLA GALVEZ** (*Islands*), **ALONA METZER** (*Learn to Swim*) and **SHASHA NAKHAI** (*Scarborough*) were among the five finalists for the Kevin Tierney Emerging Producer Award at the CMPA's Indiescreen Awards. This recognition honours impressive achievement and potential in a producer's early-career work.



MARTIN EDRALIN

Director/Writer

Islands

Produced by Martin Edralin,
Priscilla Galvez (Silent Tower)

“The Talent Fund gave me the opportunity to make a first feature through which I could explore my artistic voice and my identity as a hyphenated Canadian. It sets the bar for what public funds for the arts should be: accessible, peer-juried, and free of creative restrictions.”



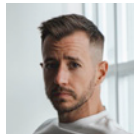
PHILIPPE GRÉGOIRE

Director/Writer

Le Bruit des moteurs

(*The Noise of Engines*)
Produced by Andrew Przybytkowski,
Philippe Grégoire (g11c)

“Without the assistance of the Talent Fund it is quite likely that the film would never have existed. This is the beginning of a great adventure in film for me, and the Talent to Watch Program allowed me to lay the foundation on which to build the rest of the story.”



CHASE JOYNT

Director

Framing Agnes

Produced by Shant Joshi,
Chase Joynt (Fae Pictures)

“The Talent Fund enabled our team to take risks and tell stories about people and subjects missing from mainstream documentaries. The early boost and trust allowed us to harness our collective skills and put everything we had – emotionally, politically and aesthetically – on screen. The result has been career changing.”



JOANNIE LAFRENIÈRE

Director/Writer

Gabor

Produced by Line Egede
(Tak Films)

“I consider myself to be truly privileged to have benefitted from the financial support of Telefilm Canada’s Talent Fund through the Talent to Watch Program. This support made it possible for me to direct my first feature-length documentary in optimal conditions, with incredibly talented artists. I couldn’t be more thrilled.”

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE TALENT FUND CAN RELY ON THE EXPERTISE AND COMMITMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPRISED 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, FINANCIAL SUPPORT, AND LEADERSHIP.

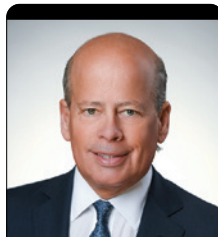
WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO

CHRISTINE MAGEE, who served as Talent Fund Advisory Committee Chair from 2018 to 2021. We are very grateful for her leadership, outstanding contributions, and continued support of our endeavours as a committee member. She has now passed the torch to Sandi Treliving, who was officially appointed Chair in September 2021.



Sandi Treliving

Chair, Advisory Committee
Philanthropist
(British Columbia)



David Aisenstat

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



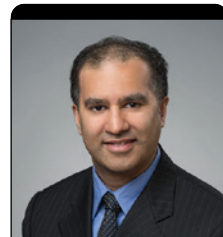
John Bitove

CEO, Obelysk Inc.
(Ontario)



Mark Dobbin

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



Dr. Anil Gupta

Medical Director of
Clinique Cardiology
Trillium Health Centre
(Ontario)



Vincenzo Guzzo

President and CEO
Cinemas Guzzo
(Quebec)



Carol R. Hill

Director of
Communications
Harvard
Developments Inc.
(Saskatchewan)



Christine Magee

Co-Founder and
Co-Chair
Sleep Country
(Ontario)



Kimberley Walker

Philanthropist
(Ontario)



Nathan Yeung

Lead Client-Side CMO
& Marketing Strategist
Find Your Audience
(British Columbia)

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Directors Guild of Canada – Ontario

RBC Foundation

Jack Gallagher Education Fund

Sanford and Deborah Riley

The Paul & Carol Hill Family Foundation

Senft Family Foundation

K.M Hunter Charitable Foundation

Sandi and Jim Treliving

THANK YOU, HAROLD GREENBERG FUND

A heartfelt thank you to the Harold Greenberg Fund, which donated from its French-language Program (which ceased operations in December 2021) to the Talent Fund. With this contribution, the Talent Fund will further invest in the bright futures of emerging French filmmakers.

TALENT FUND FINANCIAL REVIEW

REVENUES

Through the generosity of its growing family of supporters, the Talent Fund raised \$812,450:

- \$600,000 from the Harold Greenberg Fund's French-language Program
- \$212,450 from philanthropists from across Canada

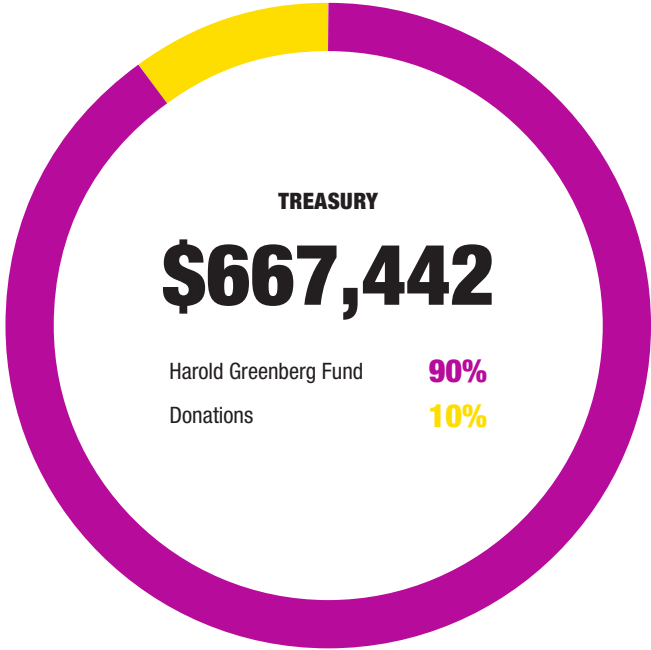
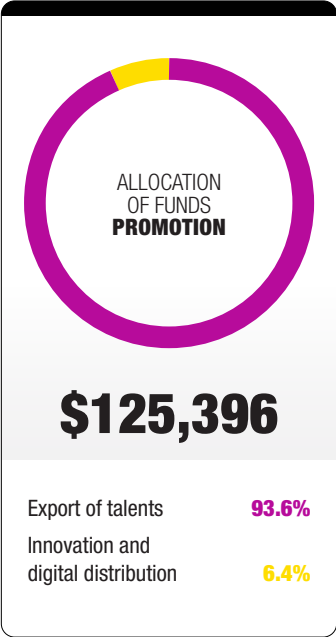
For a list of donors and partners, please visit thetalentfund.ca.



INVESTMENTS

The Talent Fund invested \$456,396 to support the production and promotion of projects. The Fund financed 14% of the 2021-2022 Talent to Watch program and continued to focus on export and distribution activities.

To support previously committed funding obligations, the Talent Fund maintained a balance of nearly \$667,442, distributed as follows:



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2022

Fiscal year ended March 31, 2022

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	Harold Greenberg Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
REVENUES						
Donations	213	—	—	—	213	317
Contributions received	—	—	—	600	600	1,651
Deferred revenues	—	—	117	(600)	(483)	(117)
	213	—	117	—	330	1,851
ASSISTANCE EXPENSES						
Talent to Watch program	331	—	—	—	331	1,574
Promotion program and national and international promotional activities	9	—	117	—	126	101
	340	—	117	—	457	1,675
Surplus (deficit) for the year	(127)	—	—	—	(127)	176
Accumulated surplus, beginning of year	194	—	—	—	194	18
Accumulated surplus, end of year	67	—	—	—	67	194

For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022, the Corporation incurred \$453,000 in expenses related to business development and promotion of the Fund (\$388,000 for the previous fiscal year). The contributions of the Harold Greenberg Fund are subject to external restrictions.

	Other donors	Bell Media	Corus Entertainment	Harold Greenberg Fund	Total 2022	Total 2021
DEFERRED REVENUES						
Balance, beginning of year	—	—	117	—	117	—
Contributions received	—	—	—	600	600	1,651
Contractual commitments recognized in revenues	—	—	(117)	—	(117)	(1,534)
Balance, end of year	—	—	—	600	600	117
CASH – TALENT FUND						
Balance, beginning of year	233	3	129	—	365	896
Receipts	213	—	—	600	813	1,968
Contractual payments under financial assistance programs	(379)	(3)	(129)	—	(511)	(2,499)
Balance, end of year	67	—	—	600	667	365

As at March 31, 2022, the Talent Fund is not contractually committed to pay any amount (\$47,325 for the previous fiscal year) and has no due from the Consolidated Revenue Fund (\$6,000 for the previous fiscal year).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

NO NEW PROJECTS IN 2021-2022

58 FILMS THAT OBTAINED ADDITIONAL FUNDING THROUGH THE TALENT TO WATCH PROGRAM³⁰

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. 1+1+1 | 16. Erin's Guide to Kissing Girls | 31. Mariam | 46. The Bannocking |
| 2. Ainsi va Manu | 17. ESLUNA: The World Beyond | 32. Moment One | 47. The Certainty of Symmetry |
| 3. Alter Boys | 18. Framing Agnes | 33. Mongrels | 48. The Chinatown Diner |
| 4. Anyox | 19. Fred l'handicapé | 34. Mother's Day | 49. The Good Guise |
| 5. Be Still | 20. Further Than The Eye Can See | 35. Nichole | 50. The Green Waterways |
| 6. Best Friend Me | 21. Gabor | 36. Once Upon a Time in Tehranto | 51. The Maiden |
| 7. Billy | 22. Golden Delicious | 37. Québexit | 52. The Oak Tree |
| 8. Cette maison | 23. Hysteria | 38. Querencia | 53. Très belle journée |
| 9. Cimes | 24. I Like Movies | 39. Quickening | 54. Tribe |
| 10. Coffee Express | 25. iNdigiThreads | 40. Reclaim | 55. Verona |
| 11. Compulsus | 26. Jour de merde | 41. Rien de mal | 56. Village Keeper |
| 12. Concrete Valley | 27. Là où tout se rassemble | 42. Scarborough | 57. Whale Sanctuary Project |
| 13. Dilly | 28. Le Bruit des moteurs | 43. Seacrets | 58. When Morning Comes |
| 14. Doubles with Slight Pepper | 29. Le Corbeau | 44. Shylo | |
| 15. Doug Find Rose | 30. Les quintessences | 45. Songs She Sings in Shadows | |

30. 58 films funded in a previous fiscal year



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