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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## A Good Day For POV Docs!

DOC pleased at CMF new \$ 3.5 M English POV program

DOC is pleased that the Canada Media Fund (CMF) board and staff have recognized the distinct conditions of production of POV documentary and that calls have been heard for a separate program within CMF.

DOC is also relieved that in-house and affiliate documentary production will be capped at 7.5% stemming fears that independent producers would be harmed by a large volume of in-house productions. This cap is still much higher than historical amounts and what DOC had requested in its submission. In-house production will be an issue we will monitor closely.

Concerns remain on the following: the impact of the 50% flex broadcasters now have will give them considerable leverage to shift money from one genre to another. This could mean that dollars once allocated to documentary production could go elsewhere.

Of concern also is the funding gap which has been created with the new requirement of a second value added interactive platform. Funding sources for this kind of content are few, and it is unclear to what degree broadcasters will offer to pay for documentary web content.

DOC Chair, John Christou states:

“We’re optimistic about the new CMF guidelines. When it was first announced that CTF would morph into the CMF, documentary filmmakers were very concerned that we’d be shut out. But the CMF staff & board have worked hard to address our concerns, and we’re pleased that a new POV Selective Fund has been incorporated into CMF.”

In conjunction with the CRTC decision brought down earlier this week, which announced that the Commission will be reviewing the definition of documentary, DOC feels the genre is getting some much needed attention from policy makers.

**About DOC**

The Documentary Organization of Canada / Documentaristes du Canada (DOC) is the collective voice of independent documentary filmmakers across Canada. DOC is a national non-profit arts service association representing over 700 directors, producers and craftspeople in the Canadian documentary community. DOC advocates on behalf of its members to foster an environment conducive to documentary production and strives to strengthen the sector within the broader film production industry.

**For further information**

**John Christou**

DOC Chair