



DOCUMENTARY  
ORGANIZATION OF CANADA  
DOCUMENTARISTES  
DU CANADA

Independent. For Real.

## BACKGROUND

The Documentary Organization of Canada /Documentaristes du Canada (DOC) is the collective voice of independent documentary filmmakers across Canada. It is a member driven organization dedicated to advancing the art form of documentary filmmaking. As a National Arts Service Organization DOC's objectives are to raise the profile of documentary film, and to advocate for a vibrant working environment for documentary filmmakers in Canada. Founded as the Canadian Independent film Caucus (CIFC) in the 1980's, DOC has been representing the interests of documentary filmmakers ever since.

## OUR WORK

DOC actively advocates to decision makers. Our research on vital policy issues, including copyright and fair dealing, the funding of documentary film, terms of trade and broadcasting license renewals, substantiate DOC's position papers and defend interests of critical importance to documentary film and filmmakers.

DOC publishes POV Magazine, Canada's leading publication dedicated to critical discussion of the art and business of independently produced documentaries. [www.povmagazine.com](http://www.povmagazine.com)

Our member services include workshops, master classes, screenings, a dynamic online discussion group, and a professional documentary portal [www.docspace.ca](http://www.docspace.ca).

## OUR MEMBERS

The seven chapters across Canada represent over 800 dedicated documentary filmmakers and artisans working in the industry.

Membership includes emerging filmmakers; well-established film companies selling product around the world, and high profile filmmakers whose films garner international awards and are major box office draws.

Members' documentaries are personally driven films ranging from the humorous to the serious. They foster debate on issues –both known and newly revealed. They give voice to the marginalized. They express a creative vision, reflecting Canada and how Canadians see the world.



### Quick Fact

At its peak in 2005-2006, the documentary production sector produced an estimated \$440 million worth of production, generating over 15,000 direct and indirect jobs in Canada (Getting Real -Toute la Vérité 2007).

## CURRENT KEY ISSUES

Copyright Reform	<p>DOC leads the charge on documentarians' position to avail themselves of a Fair Dealing exclusion for their productions and to that end, works in tandem with the academic, legal and production communities to publicize this information.</p> <p>DOC will soon release a how-to document on Fair Dealing and Documentary.</p>
Funding Programs	<p>DOC constantly monitors the place of the documentary genre within the Canadian Television Fund (CTF) and will continue to ensure support for it within the new guidelines for the Canada Media Fund (CMF).</p>
Program Cuts	<p>With the closure of the Canadian Independent Film and Video Fund (CIFVF), DOC continues to advocate for a non-broadcaster driven fund to support independent documentary filmmaking.</p>
International Representation	<p>On a case-by-case basis, DOC advocates on behalf of fellow documentary filmmakers unjustly incarcerated by repressive regimes, as it did in the situation of Maziar Bahari.</p>

## DOC CHAPTERS

Networking opportunities and workshops are provided at the following chapter locations:



### Quick Fact

The highest grossing Canadian documentary is *The Corporation*, directed by DOC member, Mark Achbar, with revenues of over \$ 6 million dollars worldwide

## DOC RESOURCES

Point of View Magazine <a href="#">↗</a>	Point of View (POV) is Canada's leading magazine dedicated to independently produced documentaries.
DOCspace <a href="#">↗</a>	A searchable database where professionals can post their profiles and films as well as a destination for documentary fans and teachers in search of Canadian documentaries.
DOC Listserv <a href="#">↗</a>	DOC members across Canada use this online forum to discuss any and all issues relevant to making documentaries including breaking news, finding crews, technical queries and job postings.
Getting Real <a href="#">↗</a>	A unique economic profile and overview of the business of Canadian documentary, "Getting Real" is a go-to-resource for policy researchers and decision makers. Volume 4 will be released in 2010.
DOC Insurance Program	Members can access an exclusive discounted insurance program.

## DOC ANNUAL REPORT

Provides the summary of DOC's progress in 2008 including regional reports: <http://docorg.ca/en/annual-report>



### Quick Facts

DOC's members are a tight-knit, giving and supportive community. Out of over 800 members in 2009, approximately 150 keep the regional chapters alive by volunteering

DOC recently celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

## INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED DOC FILMS

### THE CORPORATION

"The organization has brought me, on a personal level, deep friendships, professional support, and insight into the mechanics and machinations of documentary filmmaking in Canada I might never have had."

MARK ACHBAR, director, [The Corporation](#)

### SAVING LUNA

"We are storytellers. We believe in the power of narrative nonfiction storytelling to reach human emotions and explore the experience of life on this planet. We believe there is intrinsic value to society and to other lives in telling stories that try to describe things that matter with accuracy and honesty. Some documentary filmmakers want to use their work as advocates, to change what people do; we want to use our work as empathetic storytellers, to understand what people do."

SUZANNE CHISHOLM, director, [Saving Luna](#)

### WATERLIFE

"I make documentaries because I love everything about the craft of filmmaking; because I cherish the fact that documentary-making gives me a license to follow my curiosity about the world; and, most of all, because I believe that documentaries, at their best, allow those of us who make them to serve our fellow citizens by providing a window on reality that is not clouded by commercial or ideological interests."

KEVIN MCMAHON, director, [Waterlife](#)

### WOMEN AND MEN UNGLUED

"DOC has provided me with the invaluable opportunity to learn about so many dimensions of the documentary world, from the practical, financial, technical, through to the aesthetic, moral, and social. Above all else, though, it has served as my training ground in the complex political realities that surround documentary filmmaking and are inescapable for novices and veterans alike."

KATHERINE GILDAY, director, Women and Men Unglued



#### Quick Fact

In 2005-2006, Canadians produced 201 documentary television series, representing **1,390 hours of original** production.

Documentary television series generated \$227 million in production expenditures in 2005-2006, accounting for 62% of \$366 million in TOTAL independent documentary television production. (Getting Real – Toute la Vérité Volume 3)

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### Quick Fact

The annual average number of hours that Canadians watch documentaries has been growing since 1999.

Between 2001 and 2004, the annual average increased to 9.9 MILLION hours, where around 5 million hours of documentary programming were watched on Canadian conventional broadcasters and 4.8 million hours were watched on Canadian pay and specialty stations.