



**The Documentary Organization of Canada (DOC)** is the collective voice of Canada's independent documentary creators. Founded in 1983 to represent the interests of Canada's growing community of indie doc filmmakers, today DOC has over 1300 members across six chapters from coast to coast. DOC conducts valuable research and advocacy work that strengthens the ecosystem for documentary production, and runs National programs that support our community. DOC's mandate as a member-driven organization is to advocate for an equitable, sustainable environment for documentary production and to strengthen the sector within the broader cultural industry.

## **The Documentary Organization of Canada's (DOC) member consultations in support of the National Film Board's Strategic Planning**

In December 2023, the NFB began a process of restructuring that is still ongoing. Many DOC members expressed concerns about how these changes might impact them and their communities. DOC convened our members to reflect on the NFB's mandate, and to share ideas and aspirations for our vision of the NFB that meets the needs of Canadian and Indigenous filmmakers in every region of the country.

The reflections took place virtually in February, March and April, and in-person in May 2024. The following are DOC's recommendations for the NFB's Strategic Plan.

# INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY

- **Report** on the results of the NFB's 2017-2020 [Action Plan](#) to redefine the NFB's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, and update accordingly
- **Ensure** that Indigenous filmmakers are able to access NFB archives about Indigenous communities free of charge
- **Consult** with Indigenous filmmakers before implementing any changes that directly impact the Indigenous filmmaking community
- **Create** Indigenous Executive positions that have connections to regional Indigenous communities
- **Create** an Indigenous department that has the autonomy and mechanisms to implement Indigenous narrative sovereignty throughout the NFB
- **Reverse** the NFB policy of taking copyright on Indigenous films

# HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

- **Report** on the results of the NFB's 2021 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Plan, and update accordingly
- **Ensure** that the NFB has a diversity of lived experiences and perspectives at the Executive decision-making level, and that there is meaningful, ongoing anti-racism training for all staff and Executives
- **Ensure** that EDI Executives are provided with the appropriate staff, autonomy, authority and support to make meaningful changes
- **Recognize** that many Black and racialized filmmakers make films that take place outside of Canada's borders and that this must be integral to the NFB's programming framework
- **Apply** EDI frameworks across the NFB's operations, beyond support for individual projects

# DISTRIBUTION

- **Center** the filmmaking team in distribution decisions
- **Remove** the obligation that the NFB distribute the content it coproduces
- **Focus** distribution on Canada and community screenings
- **Ensure** that educators have access to NFB films and educational resources for classrooms
- **Expand** the NFB's outreach or "impact" distribution services to films that are not NFB productions

# PRODUCTION

- Increase transparency on programming objectives
- Produce content that:
  - Is **not** driven by **market trends**
  - Is **innovative** in form and content
  - **Breaks the stereotype** of what constitutes a Canadian and Indigenous story
  - Addresses important **social issues**
  - Is administered by a **simplified structure** in accordance with industry standards

# NFB AND THE COMMUNITY

- **Be a natural home** for first time filmmakers
- **Empower** filmmakers to be in a position to produce, own and distribute their films
- **Nurture** the independent filmmaking community
- **Prioritize** listening to the community and being attentive to each community's needs
- **Be a community hub** by providing and encouraging access to NFB spaces

# NFB STRUCTURE

- **Be transparent** about NFB budget allocations for studios and productions
- **Increase** regional autonomy
- **Decentralize** decision making
- **Reduce** bureaucracy
- **Share** the results of community consultations
- **Separate** the role of the Commissioner from Board Chair of the NFB