

RECIPIENTS OF CROSSCURRENTS CANADA DOC FUND, SUPPORTED BY NETFLIX,
ANNOUNCED
\$150,000 CAD AWARDED TO EIGHT CANADIAN PROJECTS

Toronto, November 11, 2020 – Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival is pleased to announce that eight films—six features and two shorts—have received development, production and post-production grants totaling \$150,000 from the CrossCurrents Canada Doc Fund. The Fund, established with the support of Netflix, was announced during the 2018 Hot Docs Festival and supports a diversity of voices and perspectives with the goal of building a more vibrant, representative and sustainable industry.

“In the third year of the CrossCurrents Canada Doc Fund, we are in awe of the tenacity and adventurous spirits of this year's grantees,” said **Heidi Tao Yang**, Acting Industry Programs Director for Hot Docs. “Canada's next generation of documentary talents are daring to tell bold, personal stories with ambitious vision whilst creatively circumventing barriers imposed by the pandemic. We're very excited to support these eight projects from across the country.”

“It's invaluable for audiences to see their lives reflected on screen and the CrossCurrents Canada Doc Fund is an important stepping stone for Canadian documentary creators to share their unique perspectives,” said **Lisa Nishimura**, Netflix's Vice President of Independent Films and Documentary Features. “We congratulate all eight participants and look forward to seeing their visions come to life.”

The CrossCurrents Canada Doc Fund is a cornerstone of the Hot Docs Canadian Storytellers Project, generously supported by Netflix. The Project is an initiative meant to address systemic barriers and opportunity gaps that exist within the documentary film community. This fund, which has disbursed \$460,000 in three years, aims to foster original storytelling from creators with unique vantage points, and is open to emerging and sophomore documentary storytellers who are Indigenous, Francophone, Deaf and/or have a disability, racialized and/or persons of colour.

Eligible projects were considered by the CrossCurrents Canada Doc Fund Committee: Adriana Chartrand (Institute Manager, imagineNATIVE), Kadon Douglas (Board Chair, Reelworld Film Festival), Melanie Hadley (Program Director, Global Access Programs, WarnerMedia), Hot Docs (Olena Decock, Industry Programmer: Funds & Conference, and Heidi Tao Yang, Acting Industry Programs Director), Jalana Lewis (producer & lawyer), Lulu Wei (director & cinematographer)

Development Funds

BEYOND BORDERS (short)

Director: Carol Nguyen

Producer: Audrey-Ann Dupuis-Pierre

Production company: 9424-6899 Québec inc.

A girl visits her parents' motherland, Vietnam, for the first time, trying to find answers to their war-torn past. Through unexpected revelations and a series of identity crises, she is forced to confront questions of belonging, home and cultural legacy.

GAWLO (feature)

Director/Producer: Aïcha Diop

Production company: Studio Tokosel Inc.

A mind-bending journey that supposes a world where modern day science and ancient West-African practices work together to unite African American slave descendants with their African history, saving its traditions from extinction.

IN THE WAKE (feature)

Director: Lyana Patrick

Producers: Jessica Hallenbeck, Tyler Hagan

Production company: Lantern Films, Experimental Forest Films

In the wake of the damming of the Nechako River and a looming court decision, two Chiefs form an unlikely alliance to rebuild their communities.

SPIRITS REBELLIOUS (feature)

Director/Producer: Marlene Edoyan

Production company: Fauve Film Inc.

A small group of teenagers realize that their futures are suddenly full of possibility when they start to question the centuries-old patriarchal values that govern gender roles in their small rural village of Gandza in southern Georgia.

WILLIAM'S WILL (feature)

Director: Pascal Huynh

Producer: Adam Pajot Gendron

Production company: Tortuga Films

A gay man who has dreamt of adopting questions the legitimacy of the practice after meeting with an adoptee whose last wish before dying of brain cancer was to get un-adopted.

Production Funds

ATIKAMEKSHENG ANISHNAWBEK NON-VERBAL (feature)

Director/Producer: Darlene Naponse

Producers: Jamie Manning, Justine Pimlott

Production companies: Baswewe Films, Night Market, National Film Board of Canada

Blending the natural world, an original soundtrack and contemporary movement, this film explores narrative through a non-verbal, visual approach as it documents a year of survival, sovereignty, land-based traditions, family, ceremony, and destruction of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, an Ojibway community in Northern Ontario.

HOPE SONG (CHANT D'ESPERANCE) (short)

Director/Producer: Yasmine Mathurin

Producer: Monica Mwangi

Production company: Independent

An animated short about a mother and her daughter moving out of their childhood home in Canada. Through documented sound recordings between them and poetic imagery, we explore their emotional and conflicting realities.

Post-production

KIIMAAPIIPITSIN (feature)

Director: Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers

Producers: Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, Lori Lozinski, David Christensen

Production company: Seen Through Woman Productions Inc., National Film Board of Canada

In 2014, the synthetic opiate Fentanyl claimed over 20 lives on the Blood Reserve, leading tribal authorities to declare a state of emergency. Working alongside Dr. Esther Tailfeathers and community members committed to healing, Dr. Tailfeathers' daughter, filmmaker Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers, documents this critical moment for the Blood Tribe.

The application dates for the third round of funding will be announced in the New Year.

For further information on the application process, eligibility requirements and deadlines, please visit <http://www.hotdocs.ca/i/crosscurrents-doc-fund>.

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Hot Docs is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing and celebrating the art of documentary and to creating production opportunities for documentary filmmakers. During the annual Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival, a full roster of industry conference sessions, market programs and networking events will be held for Canadian and international delegates, including the renowned Hot Docs Forum, Hot Docs Deal Maker, Distribution Rendezvous and The Doc Shop. Year-round, Hot Docs supports the Canadian and international documentary industry with a multi-million-dollar production fund and financing initiative portfolio, including the Hot Docs Ted Rogers Fund, CrossCurrents Doc Funds, Hot Docs-Blue Ice Docs Fund, Hot Docs-Slaight Family Fund and Hot Docs Partners, and valuable professional development programs, including Doc Ignite and Doc Accelerator.

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