



INDEPENDENT
PRODUCTION
FUND

2001

ANNUAL

REPORT

Board of Directors



Peter Mortimer
President



Robert Roy
Vice-President



Heather McGillivray



Bernard Montigny



Paul Gratton



Denise Robert – Treasurer

Peter Mortimer is President of AVA Communications and an independent producer and international communications consultant. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Cogeco Program Development Fund.

Robert Roy is Secretary General of the International Centre for Children and Young People (CIFEJ). He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Cogeco Program Development Fund.

Heather McGillivray is a lawyer with experience as Vice-President and co-owner of Macstar Communications Inc., an independent distribution and production company, and as Vice-President Programming for Family Channel.

Bernard Montigny is a lawyer specializing in communications law.

Paul Gratton is Vice President and General Manager of Space, The Imagination Station, Drive-In Classics, and Station Manager of Bravo!, Canada's 24-hour *NewStyleArtsChannel*. He is also Vice-Chair of the Cinema Division of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, serves on the Canadian Feature Film Fund Advisory Group, and previously served as CEO of the Ontario Film Development Corporation.

Denise Robert Denise Robert is Chairman of the Board of Groupe Cinéma Inc. She has produced award-winning feature films including Patrice Leconte's *The Widow of Saint-Pierre* and Denys Arcand's *Stardom*. Winner of the 2001 Golden Reel with *Wedding Night*, she will soon release Denise Filiatrault's new feature, *Alice Tremblay's Odyssey*. She is Chair of the Board of Directors of the APFTQ and co-chair of the Canadian Feature Film Fund Advisory Group.

What is it?

Production financing for dramatic television series and grants for professional development programs.



Who is it for?

Canadian independent producers with a private broadcaster first-window licence commitment.



What do you get?

Approximately \$3 million a year is available for equity investments.



How do you get it?

Application deadlines are February 15, April 15 and October 1 each year. The Board of Directors evaluates all eligible applications based on quality, creativity, business plans and financial viability.

Management



Andra Sheffer
Executive Director



Claire Dion
Associate Director



Charles Zamaria
Financial Director

President's Message

As we enter our second decade of funding for Canadian dramatic television series, 13 series received nearly \$2.2 million in funding from the IPF resulting in 105 original hours of Canadian television viewing. The IPF can now boast over \$32 million invested in Canadian independent production for our television industry in the past 11 years. Although these are numbers to be proud of, the growing industry anxiety over the seemingly uncertain future of Canadian drama, particularly premium quality, prime-time dramatic series, is of great concern to us all. Maintaining high levels of quality Canadian drama production in an era of increasingly fragmented markets and changing consumer technologies around the world is the single greatest challenge facing broadcasters, investors and independent producers alike.

2001 was a busy 10th anniversary year for the IPF. We celebrated our first decade with a 3-minute compilation video celebrating great scenes from Canadian drama series of the '90's which was screened at Festivals across the country. We offer our sincerest thanks to CTV for making this "little" production a reality for us. Tributes, and a promotional campaign saluting Canadian drama were designed throughout the year to draw attention to the achievements of our industry. One hundred and thirty-five seasons of original drama series is an impressive body of Canadian works!

Our management of other Funds expanded in 2001 when the administration of the **Videon Production Fund** was incorporated into the IPF activities together with the final phase of the **CFCN Production Fund**. Administration of these Funds is in

addition to the IPF's ongoing management of the **Cogeco Program Development Fund** and the **Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund** – all under one management team of 5 people in offices in Toronto and Montreal. Efficient minimization of overhead expenses for all, while ensuring the unique mandates and Boards of Directors of each Fund is our everyday goal.

The IPF remains Canada's only truly independent Fund operating on the revenues generated by a \$35 million endowment originally donated by Maclean Hunter Limited. This is supplemented by recoupment from production investments which now averages a return of 12%. Once again I thank my colleagues on the Board of Directors who remain committed and enthusiastic about the IPF's role in the industry, and to our management team which rises to the challenges which each new year brings.



Peter Mortimer
President

"The IPF can now boast over \$32 million invested in Canadian independent production for our television industry in the past 11 years."

A Decade of Drama Series

The 10th anniversary of the Independent Production Fund was recognized by various industry salutes to the IPF and the outstanding dramatic television series of the past 10 years.

Launched in 1991 as the Maclean Hunter Television Fund with an endowment of \$29 million (now valued at \$35 M) resulting from Maclean Hunter's purchase of Selkirk Communications, the Fund was renamed the Independent Production Fund in 1996 after the purchase of Maclean Hunter Ltd. by Rogers. As the industry's only truly "independent" Fund, the IPF celebrated 10 years of investments of \$30 million in 122 series resulting in 1,000 hours of viewing with 14 different first-window Canadian broadcasters. In addition, 177 training programs were assisted with Special Program grants. The IPF also now administers four other private industry funds – the Cogeco Program Development Fund (since 1992), the Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund (since 1997) and the Videon Television Production Fund and the CFCN Production Fund which were both transferred to the IPF in 2001.

Stats and Facts

	Category	2001	1991 – 2001
Money	series	2,190,000	29,403,817
	pilots	0	647,678
	primetime series	1,590,000	17,783,221
	family series	600,000	12,268,274
	professional development	209,500	2,310,625
	Total investments \$	2,399,500	32,362,120
Numbers	primetime series	9	47
	family series	4	71
	pilots	0	17
	professional development	12	187
	Total number of projects	25	322
Hours	primetime	79	639.5
	family	26	694.75
	Total hours of programming	105	1,334.25
Language	English language series		
	number	7	82
	investment	1,300,000	18,547,233
	French language series		
number	6	53	
investment	890,000	11,504,272	
Region	Number of series/pilots		
	BC	0	14
	Prairies	2	17
	Ontario	4	56
	Québec	7	63
	Maritimes	0	2
	Investments in series/pilots \$		
	BC	0	2,200,353
	Prairies	250,000	2,414,502
	Ontario	900,000	12,748,351
	Québec	1,040,000	12,432,289
	Maritimes	0	600,000
	First-window Broadcasters	Canal famille	0
CFRN		0	1
Channel 47		0	1
CHUM/CityTV		0	2
CTV		2	23
Family Channel		0	9
Global		1	20
SCN		0	1
Showcase		1	1
Groupe TVA		4	24
Teletoon		0	1
TQS		2	8
TMN		1	2
WIC/iTV		0	6
YTV		3	23

Production Series

2030 CE

Minds Eye Pictures / AD 2030 Productions Inc.

p. ex: Kevin DeWalt, Deirdre Gilchrist
p: Yan Moore, Josh Miller
d: Rob de Lint, Rob King, Francis Danbergen & various
13 x 30 minutes
YTV

This sci-fi series is set 30 years in the future in a world without pollution, war or poverty, but where no one lives past the age of 40.

The Associates (Season 2)

Big Firm II Productions Ltd.
(Alliance Atlantis Communications Ltd.)

p. ex: Alyson Feltes, Ann Marie La Traverse, Maureen McKeon
p: Brian Dennis
d: George Bloomfield, Jane Thompson
13 x 60 minutes
CTV

Five young lawyers learn about themselves and the law as second-year associates in a large, blue-chip firm.

Big Comfy Couch (Season 6)

Radical Sheep Productions

p. ex: John Leitch
p: Robert Mills, Cheryl Wagner
d: Robert Mills
13 x 30 minutes
YTV

Loonette the Clown and her doll Molly live on the Big Comfy Couch where they discover the world around them with an assortment of clown friends.

Blue Murder (Season 2)

Barna-Alper Productions

p. ex: Laszlo Barna, Steve Lucas
p: Norman Denver
d: John L'Ecuyer, T.W. Peacocke, Tim Southam,
Don McBrearty & various
13 x 60 minutes
Global

Crime drama series about an elite investigative unit operating inside the Toronto police force.



2030 CE



The Associates



Big Comfy Couch



Blue Murder



Production Series

Cauchemar d'amour Match TV inc.

p: Anne-Marie Héту, Philippe Dussault
d: Bruno Carrière
7 x 60 minutes
Groupe TVA

Two singles set off in search of true love which will bring them longed-for happiness.



Degrassi: The Next Generation Epitome Pictures

p. ex: Stephen Stohn
p: Linda Schuyler
d: Bruce MacDonald & various
13 x 30 minutes
CTV

Amidst the Internet, body piercing and hip hop, kids still face the timeless issues of growing up and fitting in.



Dice Cité-Amérique Cinéma Télévision Inc.

p. ex: Louis Laverdière, Vivianne Morin
p: Greg Dummett, Lorraine Richard
d: Rachel Talabay
6 x 60 minutes
Showcase

A murderer, an investigator, a psychology researcher, and various friends and lovers use "dicing" to catch a killer in this thrilling cat-and-mouse mini-series.



Incredible Story Studio (Season 5) Minds Eye Pictures

p. ex: Kevin DeWalt, Kieran Corrigan
p: Virginia Thompson, Mark Reid
d: Rob King, Rob de Lint & various
13 x 30 minutes
YTV

Real kids tell their own funny, fictional and absolutely incredible stories on TV.

Lance et compte: nouvelle génération I and II

Communications Claude Héroux Plus inc.

p. ex: Caroline Héroux
p: Claude Héroux, Réjean Tremblay
d: Jean-Claude Lord
10 x 60 minutes
TQS

Twelve years later, the National team evolves from a spiritless bunch of guys to formidable players working together towards their common goal.

Si la tendance se maintient

Les Productions Vendôme II inc.

p: André Dubois
d: Jean Bourbonnais
5 x 60 minutes
Groupe TVA

Political and media manipulation lead to the election of an "incompetent" – whose popularity continues to grow after the election.

Tabou

Productions Tabou inc.

p: Jacques Blain, Jocelyn Deschênes
d: Louis Choquette
8 x 60 minutes
Groupe TVA

The Vandelac family is haunted by a taboo subject – the unresolved disappearance of their 14-year old daughter.

Tribu.com II

Sovimed inc.

p: Vincent Gabriele
d: François Bouvier, Phil Comeau
17 x 60 minutes
Groupe TVA

The relationships of eight dysfunctional people in a PR agency continue.



Professional Development Projects

WORKSHOPS

SEMINARS

AWARD SHOWS

FILM & TELEVISION
FESTIVALS

TRADE FORUMS

Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television

2001 Gemini Awards
October 27 – 29, 2001
Toronto, Ontario

Les Prix Gémeaux
September 30, 2001
Montréal, Québec

APFTQ

Co-Production Seminar 2001
November 12, 2001
Montreal, Quebec

Atlantic Film Festival

Industry Series 2001
September 19 – 22, 2001
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Banff Television Festival

2001 Television Festival
June 10 – 15, 2001
Banff, Alberta

Canadian Film Centre

*Prime Time Television Resident
Programme 2001*
January – April 2001
Toronto, Ontario

Canadian Screen Training Centre

*SIFT – Summer Institute of Film
& Television 2001*
May 29 – June 3, 2001
Ottawa, Ontario and Hull, Quebec

INIS

Drama Series Workshop 2001
January – March, 2001
Montreal, Quebec

Montreal International Film Festival

*International Film, TV and Video
Market 2001*
August 23 – September 3, 2001
Montréal, Québec

OMDC (Ontario Media Development Corporation)

Canadian-Australian Producers Summit
November 7 – 17, 2001
Australia & New Zealand

Toronto International Film Festival

Sessions 2001
September 6 – 15, 2001
Toronto, Ontario

Vancouver International Film Festival

Trade Forum 2001
September 26 – 29, 2001
Vancouver, BC

Videon Fund

The administration of the Videon Television Production Fund was transferred to the Independent Production Fund in January 2001 as a result of changes in ownership of Videon CableSystems Inc. \$418,000 was allocated to 17 projects produced by Manitoba and Alberta-based production companies. All genres of production were eligible for either development loans or production financing.

Category	Number of Projects Funded	Funding Commitments
Development Loans	8	71,000
Production Equity	9	347,000
Total	17	418,000

Videon Development Projects

100 Days in the Jungle

MOW

Imagination Film & Television Productions Inc. & Sextant Entertainment Group Inc.

p: Tom Rowe, Nicolette Saina

w: Sean O'Byrne

CTV

The true story of seven Canadian men and one American abducted by Columbian guerrillas in September 1999 while working on a pipeline project in Ecuador.

The Andy Seidemann Story

MOW

Minds Eye Pictures (Alberta) Ltd.

p. ex: Kevin DeWalt

p: Josh Miller

w: Scot Morison

A – Channel

Small town Saskatchewan Mountie Andy Seidemann pursues a serial child molester.

North of 60 – Another Country

MOW

Alberta Filmworks Inc.

p: Doug MacLeod, Tom Cox

w: Andrew Wreggitt, Peter Lauterman

CBC

Suspense movie set in the wilds of northern Canada.

A Place in the Sun

Documentary / Reality Television

Fortune Films Inc. & Voice Pictures Development Corp.

p: Michelle Wong, Wendy Hill Tout

w: Michelle Wong

Vision TV

A woman's search for the truth after the suicide of her gambling brother, and a family's journey toward healing.

Sudan: The Secret Story

Documentary

887429 Alberta Ltd.

p: David Christensen, Damien Lewis

w: David Christensen

CBC

Arms for oil deals, chemical weapons use, child soldiers – this film explores the darker side of oil in Sudan.

Tipi Tales

Children's Series

Eagle Vision Productions Inc.

p: Lisa Meeches

w: Jordan Wheeler,
Nancy Trites-Botkin

APTN, YTV

The seven sacred teachings of aboriginal spirituality are presented through puppets.

Wild Files

Educational Series

Reel Girls Media

p: Ava Karvonen

w: Chris Fisher

Access

A nature series that makes science accessible to everyone.



Videon Production Projects



AD 2030

Youth Series

Minds Eye Pictures / AD 2030
Productions Inc.

p. ex: Kevin DeWalt, Deirdre Gilchrist
p: Yan Moore, Josh Miller
w: Yan Moore, Dennis Foon
YTV

This sci-fi series is set 30 years in the future in a world without pollution, war or poverty, but where no one lives past the age of 40.

Drug Deals

Documentary

Merit Motion Pictures Inc.

p. ex: Merit Jensen Carr, Joe MacDonald
w: Erna Buffie

CBC

The show examines the increasing alliances and conflicts of interest within the field of drug research and the regulatory and approval agencies.

Edge of Madness (formerly A Wilderness Station)

Feature Film / MOW

CinéGroupe Corporation &
Credo Entertainment Corp.

p. ex: Jacques Pettigrew, Marie-Claude
Beauchamp, Derek Mazur,
Charles K. Pitts

p: Bill Gray

w: Charles K. Pitts, Anne Wheeler
CBC, TMN, Showcase, Superchannel

Based on Alice Munro's story, a woman is tyrannized by her husband on their homestead in the early 1950's.

Innocence Under Siege

Documentary

Lank Beach Productions

p: Luanne Lank
w: Susan Nicol
Global, Prime TV

This documentary examines children as targets of conflict and soldiers of war.

Mentors

Children's series

Anaid Productions / Minds Eye Pictures

p: Margaret Mardirossian
w: Josh Miller & various
Family Channel

A computer transports historical figures forward in time to mentor kids.

Sharing Visions / Reveries

Documentary

Sharing Visions / Reveries Inc.

p: Jean Patenaude
w: Jean Patenaude
CBC, CFRN, Bravo!, Canal D,
Access Alberta, SCN

A documentary combining the art of painter Sam Black with the music of composer Stewart Grant.

Stories from the 7th Fire

Children's Series

Storytellers Productions Inc.

p: Gerri Cook, Ava Karvonen,
Greg Coyes

w: Gerri Cook, Greg Coyes
APTN, CFRN, Access, Vision TV

The series depicts ancient First Nations stories.

Taking it Off

Documentary Series

Anaid Productions

p. ex: Margaret Mardirossian
p: Alexandra Zarowny,
Michele Boniface, Neil Grahn
w: Neil Grahn
Life Network

The series follows seven people in their attempt to lose weight, examining dietary, lifestyle and belief changes.

Wilderness Journeys: The Ancient Rainforest

Documentary

Karvonen Films Ltd.

p: Albert Karvonen
w: Sandra Tober
Discovery Channel, SCN, Knowledge
Network, Canal D

Remote coastal areas of BC not accessible by road are explored.

Worlds Apart...

Joining Together

Documentary

W.B.P. Productions Inc.

p: Louis Paquin
w: Steve Wolfson
APTN, SCN, Vision TV

The Inuit of the Canadian Arctic and the Maya of the Belize Rainforests are compared in the face of imposing "civilization."