



1997 ANNUAL REPORT

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INDEPENDENT PRODUCTION FUND

WHAT IS IT?

- Production financing for dramatic television series and pilots.
- Grants for professional development programs which reflect the objectives of the Fund.

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, August 1 and November 1 each year.
- The Board of Directors evaluates all eligible applications based on quality, creativity, business and financial aspects.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"CHANGE" stands out as we review the memories of 1997. As the former Maclean Hunter Television Fund, we changed our name mid-year to the Independent Production Fund. We left our original home in the Maclean Hunter Building in Toronto and changed to a new address down the street. And we changed responsibilities too – we added the administration of the Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund to our portfolio. And yet, despite all these changes, we continued our key role as the major private fund investor in high quality Canadian television drama series.

As a private, independent fund with an endowment valued at \$35 million, the Independent Production Fund no longer has any ties with its original benefactor – Maclean Hunter Limited. We are indeed, truly, independent. Hence, the appropriate name change, and a new logo and image. It is the interest on the capital endowment and the funds that we recoup annually from our program investments, that serve as our operating funding each year. With over \$3.2 million available in 1997 we were able to participate in 13 new series, one pilot for a series, and 20 training and educational special projects. The programs amounted to

a record 170 hours of new Canadian television drama.

The Cogeco Program Development Fund which we administer on behalf of the Cogeco Group Inc., celebrated its fifth anniversary during 1997. We salute Cogeco's support over the past 5 years for the development of new Canadian drama. The Cogeco Program Development Fund funded the writing for 78 potential new series during this period; a large number of these have since proceeded successfully into production.

In 1997 we welcomed another new private fund to our family of industry funds, the Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund. Within 2 months of its launch in September, 1997, the Bell Fund committed \$2 million to 12 new media projects, each associated with a Canadian television program. The world of new media is rapidly engaging the interests and energies of traditional television producers who are forging new partnerships in the digital world to devise some exciting and innovative interactive new media projects.

It has been a very busy and highly satisfying year of progress for the Independent Production Fund and for the industry with which we work. The successes of Canadian television programming internationally are increasingly echoed among our own critical domestic audiences. These programs impress television buyers and audiences around the world. We are proud of our contributions to this growing saga of success.



Peter Mortimer, President

"With over \$3.2 million available in 1997 we were able to participate in 13 new series, one pilot for a series, and 20 training and educational special projects. The programs amounted to a record 170 hours of new Canadian television drama."



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Peter Mortimer
President
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
Vice-President
Robert Roy is a communications consultant and Vice-Chair (Quebec) of the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Cogeco Program Development fund.



Paul Gratton
Paul Gratton is currently 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 and previously served as CEO of the Ontario Film Development Corporation.



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



Bernard Montigny
Bernard Montigny is a lawyer specializing in communications law.



Denise Robert
Denise Robert is President of Cinémaginaire inc., a production company which has produced award-winning feature films including Denys Arcand's *Poverty and Other Delights* and Robert Lepage's *Le Confessionnal*. She is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cinémathèque québécoise.



Michel Tremblay
Michel Tremblay is Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Association of Broadcasters, a trade association representing the vast majority of Canada's private radio and television stations and networks, and specialty services.



MANAGEMENT

Andra Sheffer
Executive Director



Claire Dion
Associate Director



Ernest Cozens
Secretary-Treasurer

1997 PROFILES

1997 Investment Summary			
Category	Number of Projects Funded	Number of Hours of Programming	Total Investments \$
Series			
English	8	86.5	1,800,000
French	5	83.0	1,200,000
Total	13	169.5	3,000,000
Pilots			
English	1	0.5	25,000
French	0	0	0
Total	1	0.5	25,000
Special Projects			
English	15	0	190,500
French	5	0	49,000
Total	20	0	239,500
Total			
English	24	87.0	2,015,500
French	10	83.0	1,249,000
1997 Project Totals	34	170.0	3,264,500

\$3,000,000
INVESTED IN 13 SERIES

English-language series 8 \$1,800,000
French-language series 5 \$1,200,000

AND

SERIES SUPPORTED

170 HOURS
OF CANADIAN TELEVISION
SERIES FUNDED

English-language tv hours 87
French-language tv hours 83
Prime-time tv hours 76
Children/Youth tv hours 94

\$239,500

GRANTED TO 20 TRAINING
AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

English projects 15 \$190,000
French projects 5 \$49,000

1997 ACTIVITIES REPORT

On May 1, 1997, the Maclean Hunter Television Fund announced its new name, its new logo, and its new address in Toronto. The **Independent Production Fund** was born. The "IPF" inherited the complete mandate and responsibilities of the former MHTV Fund. Two new members were added to the Board of Directors. Our own website quickly followed: www.ipf.ca. A new Finance Manager joined the administration team. Our long-time office coordinator left for new challenges. And, the Cogeco Program Development Fund which is administered by the IPF, celebrated its fifth anniversary with special event sponsorships.

In June, Bell Canada announced the formation of its new fund – the Bell Broadcast and New Media Fund. By July the IPF was contracted to administer this fund on behalf of Bell, and by September 11 the Bell Fund was launched.

It's been a busy year! Meanwhile, the Independent Production Fund invested \$3.265 million during 1997 in 13 new dramatic series, 1 new pilot and 20 special training activities. This amounted to 170 hours of new Canadian

dramatic television programming. Highlighting the list are outstanding prime time series such as *Traders* and award-winning children's series including *Dudley the Dragon* and *Once Upon a Hamster*. *Pin Pon* won over the hearts of pre-schoolers across Quebec and Quebec's own *Caillou* is hitting the international markets. Of the 71 series funded prior to 1997, 45 of them (63%) are actually recouping costs and contributing new funds to our revenue stream. Although recoupment revenues have traditionally come from licensing sales to broadcasters around the world, a growing proportion of revenues are now derived from merchandising. Slowly and patiently we are seeing the results of complex international licensing and merchandising strategies.

For the past 6 years the Independent Production Fund (a.k.a. Maclean Hunter Television Fund) has invested more than \$21.8 million in the Canadian television industry and we are proud to contribute to the success of the 84 productions and 15 first-window broadcasters with whom we have been partners.

Total Investments Since the Fund Inception 1991 – 1997

Category	Total projects funded	Total investments \$
Series	84	19,708,100
Pilots	17	651,058
Special Projects	133	1,469,625
Total	234	21,828,783

\$21,828,783

INVESTED IN THE
CANADIAN TELEVISION
INDUSTRY IN 6 YEARS.

84 SERIES

FUNDED IN 6 YEARS.

Regional Distribution Since Fund Inception 1991 – 1997

	Number of Projects			Total	Total Investments \$
	Series	Pilots	Special Projects		
Ontario	32	6	51	89	8,978,181
Quebec	36	6	39	81	9,102,303
Prairies	6	4	17	27	1,809,000
BC	9	1	8	18	1,468,319
Atlantic	1	—	16	17	465,980
International (England)	—	—	2	2	5,000
Total	84	17	133	234	21,828,783

First Window Broadcasters 1991 – 1997

Canal Famille	19
CanWest/Global System	16
Télé-Métropole (Le Réseau TVA)	14
YTV	13
CTV Television Network	11
Family Channel	9
WIC/ITV	6
Télévision Quatre Saisons	5
CHUM/CITY TV	2
The Movie Network	1
Channel 47	1
SCN	1
Baton	1
CFRN	1
Teleton	1
TOTAL	101

1997 PRODUCTIONS – SERIES



Caillou

Caillou Productions Inc. (Cinar)

Exec. Producer(s): Micheline Charest, Ronald Weinberg

Producer(s): Cassandra Schafhausen

Broadcaster: Teletoon

65 x 5 minutes

Little Caillou is a bold and sympathetic child whose adventures teach him about the world and family life.



Diva (Mode)

Sovicom Inc.

Producer(s): Vincent Gabriele, Claudette Viau

Broadcaster: Groupe TVA Inc.

20 x 60 minutes

Series that takes place in the world of fashion, revealing the ups and downs of a modeling agency.



Freaky Stories

Big-Time Talking Pictures Inc. (Decode Entertainment)

Exec. Producer(s): John A. Delmage

Producer(s): Steve Schnier

Broadcaster: YTV, Canal Famille

13 x 30 minutes

Hosted by Larry the Cockroach, this animated show presents urban legends – the kind of weird stories which happened to a friend of a friend. Each episode develops a particular theme like food, computers, and cars, conveyed through a variety of genres, characters and artistic styles.



Hello Mrs. Cherrywinkle (Season 2)

Cherrywinkle Productions II Inc. (Owl/SDA Productions)

Exec. Producer(s): Annabel Slaight, Sylvie Bergeron

Producer(s): Bernice Vanderlaan

Broadcaster: Family Channel

26 x 30 minute

Delightful series for pre-schoolers hosted by the bubbly Mrs. Cherrywinkle who captivates her audience with fun and creativity. An interactive show which encourages kids to sing and dance, make crafts and solve puzzles.

1997 PRODUCTIONS – SERIES



Incredible Story Studio
Incredible Story Productions Inc.
Exec. Producer(s): Kevin DeWalt
Producer(s): Kevin DeWalt, Virginia Thompson
Broadcaster: ITV Edmonton, TVOntario, SCN
13 x 30 minutes

Written and performed by kids for kids in grades 6, 7 and 8. This collection of short live-action dramas are imaginative tales narrated by young storytellers. Real kids television where their own stories are brought to life.



Juliette Pomerleau
Ciné-Juliette Inc.
Producer(s): Marie-José Raymond
Broadcaster: Groupe TVA Inc.

Adaptation of the novel by Yves Beauchemin. Juliette occupies herself with ensuring the well-being of all those around her.



Lapoisie and Jobard
Cirrus Communications Inc.
Producer(s): Jacques Blain
Broadcaster: Canal Famille
26 x 30 minutes

The trials and tribulations of two incompetent investigators who are ignored by their director. Series for six to nine year olds.



Once A Thief
Screenventures XXI Productions Ltd. (Alliance)
Exec. Producer(s): John Woo, Terence Chang, William Laurin, Glenn Davis
Producer(s): Wendy Grean
Broadcaster: CTV
22 x 60 minutes

Set in the exhilarating world of international crime and espionage, this action series with its three glamorous characters imparts maximum thrills and frills.



Once Upon A Hamster
Hammytime III Productions Inc.
Exec. Producer(s): Anita Herczeg, Elaine Scott
Producer(s): Paul Sutherland
Broadcaster: YTV
13 x 30 minutes

A riverbank setting with a live cast of animal characters, featuring Hammy Hamster, Martha Mouse and their friends. Demonstrating the values of respect and consideration, this heartwarming children's show is full of entertaining stories and adventures.

1997 PRODUCTIONS – SERIES



Pin Pon II

Téléfiction Productions Inc.

Producer(s): Jacques Bonin, Carmen Bourassa, Claude Veillet

Broadcaster: Canal Famille

65 x 30 minutes

A very popular pre-school children's program where two comedian firemen invite little kids into their fire station, which is designed like a giant playroom, where the children get to sing and build toys.



The Adventures of Dudley the Dragon (Season 5)

Dragon Tales Productions (1997) Inc. (Breakthrough Films)

Producer(s): Ira Levy, Peter Williamson, Paula Smith

Broadcaster: YTV, Knowledge Network

14 x 30 minutes

Larger than life entertaining children's show where an affable green dragon learns valuable lessons about the environment and life issues through the eyes of his young human pals and forest friends. Contemporary fables are woven into the mix of adventure, humour and music.



The Inventors' Specials (Episodes: 4 – 6)

Devine Productions Ltd.

Producer(s): David Devine, Richard Mozer

Broadcaster: Family Channel, CFCF

3 x 60 minutes

Family specials set in their historical context where individual children develop relationships with creative geniuses – Isaac Newton, Marie Curie and Thomas Edison. While mixing fact with fantasy, the children discover the joys of science and learn about contemporary social issues.



Traders (Season 3)

Insider III Productions Inc. (Atlantis)

Exec. Producer(s): Alyson Feltes

Co. Exec. Producer(s): Hart Hanson

Broadcaster: CanWest Global

22 x 60 minutes

Gemini award-winning stories about a Toronto-based merchant banking firm where tensions and triumphs mount on the trading floor and in the lives of the high-finance executives.



PILOT

The Genius (Mentors Series)

Anaid Productions Inc. and Minds Eye Pictures Ltd.

Exec. Producer(s): Kevin DeWalt

Producer(s): Margaret Mardrossian, Josh Miller

Broadcaster: CFRN

30 minutes

This story is about a brilliant boy who inadvertently transports Albert Einstein into his room through his computer and in the process learns that compassion is more important than intellect. The premise of the series is that historical mentors can help solve contemporary problems.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television
1998 Gemini Awards
February 27 – March 2, 1998 and October 2 – 4, 1998
Toronto, Ontario

Les Prix Gémeaux 1997
October 5, 1997
Montreal, Quebec

TV Nouveaux Horizons
October 22, 1997
Montreal, Quebec

Quand la réalité devient fiction
March 12, 1998
Montreal, Quebec

Alliance For Children and Television
1997 Awards of Excellence and Children's Television Conference
November 7 – 8, 1997
Toronto, Ontario

Atlantic Film Festival
Industry Seminars 1997
September 19 – 27, 1997
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Banff Television Festival
1997 Banff Television Festival
June 8 – 14, 1997
Banff, Alberta

Canadian Film Centre
TV Drama Program 1997
March, 1997
Toronto, Ontario

Canadian High Commission / Telefilm Canada
UK Industry Immersion
November 17– 21, 1997
London, England

Canadian Screen Alliance
Reel Partners Film and Television Conference, 1997
June 19 – 22, 1997
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Canadian Screen Training Centre
Summer Institute of Film and Television, 1997
June 17– 22, 1997
Ottawa, Ontario

La Cinémathèque québécoise
Le meilleur de Banff
November 14 – 25, 1997
Montreal, Quebec

Directing, Acting and Writing for Camera Workshop
DAWC Workshops 1997/1998
September, 1997– May, 1998
Toronto, Ontario

Montreal World Film Festival
Le marché international du film, de la télévision et de la vidéo de Montreal 1997
August 22 – September 2, 1997
Montreal, Quebec

Manitoba Motion Picture Industries Association
1997 Blizzard Awards and Forum '97
February 20 – 22, 1997
Winnipeg, Manitoba

National Screen Institute
Local Heroes 1997
March 9 – 15, 1997
Edmonton, Alberta

Toronto International Film Festival
Symposium 1997
September 4 – 13, 1997
Toronto, Ontario

Vancouver International Film Festival
Trade Forum 1997
September 26 – October 12, 1997
Vancouver, British Columbia

Women in Film & Video Vancouver; ACTRA
Performers Guild; Banff Centre for the Arts
Women In The Director's Chair
January 18 – 29, 1997
Banff, Alberta