



nunavut film development corporation
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ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

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The Nunavut Film Development Corporation (NFDC) is a non-governmental organization, established by the Government of Nunavut to provide training and funding through various programs for the production and marketing of film, television and digital media. In meeting its mandate, NFDC's vision is to position Nunavut as a competitive, circumpolar production Centre, where Nunavummiut and guests can create quality production that is marketed and distributed to both the domestic and global market. Our policies and programs reflect the six guiding principles of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit.

OUR MANDATE

The mandate of the Nunavut Film Development Corporation is to increase economic and artistic opportunities for Nunavummiut in the film, television and digital media industries and to promote Nunavut as a world-class circumpolar production Centre.

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Nunavut Film Development Corporation embraces and accepts that it is responsible to:

- Ensure that all activities undertaken by the organization will be carried out under the principals of Inuit Qaujimajatuqangit (IQ), respecting and adhering to the Inuit societal values of:
 - *Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq* (development of skills)
 - *Qanuqtuurniq* (being innovative and resourceful)
 - *Piliriqatigiinniq* (working together)
 - *Tunnganarniq* (fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming and inclusive)
 - *Aajiqatigiinniq* (decision making through discussion and consensus), and
 - *Inuuqatigiitsiarniq* (respecting others)
- Work with the community to sustain and grow a competitive Nunavut owned and controlled film, television and digital media industry.
- Enable Nunavut production companies to foster existing relationships and to equip same with the tools and resources necessary to establish new relationships with national and international co-financing partners.
- Assist and enhance the ability of the Nunavut film, television and digital media industry to secure development, production, distribution and marketing financing.
- Utilize best management practices to administer territorial funding programs in an open, equitable and effective manner.
- Commit to a regular and open consultation with the industry.
- Work effectively with the private sector, government and other agencies to secure resources to enhance the programs and initiatives required to grow and foster the industry.
- Provide timely and accurate program and policy advice.

GOVERNANCE

The Nunavut Film and Development Corporation in 2017-2018 was governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the following individuals as of the end of the fiscal year:

Graham Dickson (Iqaluit), President and Chairperson
Charlotte DeWolff (Iqaluit), Vice-President
Alethea-Ann Arnaquq-Baril (Iqaluit), Secretary-Treasurer

Madeleine d'Argencourt (Rankin Inlet). Resigned from Board in March, 2018
Joey Evalik (Cambridge Bay)
Eric Anoe Jr. (Arviat)

The Board has four Standing Committees:

- Finance
- Human Resources
- Governance and Nominating
- Policy and Incentives

NFDC reports to the Minister of Economic Development and Transportation through its Board. The Board delegates day-to-day leadership and management to the CEO and monitors performance.

The Board of Directors carries out its duties and responsibilities guided by the following principles:

- IQ: All policies and programs must reflect the eight guiding principles of IQ.
- Continual Learning: All programs must support the development of the Nunavummiut workforce.
- Transparency: All decision-making processes will be fair, explicit and without conflict of interest. Any and all information on which decisions are based will be available to the public.
- Cultural Support: All policies and programs must promote and enhance the indigenous culture and official languages of Nunavut.
- Accountability: All management procedures must ensure that public funds from whatever source are used in a responsible manner.
- Partnerships: All partners must work together in a consultative and supportive manner.

In the discharge of their responsibilities, members of the Board follow and adhere to the following code of conduct:

- Each Board Member will act honestly, in good faith and in the interests of the Nunavut Film Development Corporation.
- Each Board Member will exercise care, skill and diligence in the process of decision-making.
- Each Board Member will adhere to the highest ethical standards in order to avoid any real or apparent conflicts of interest between private interests and the interests of NFDC.

STAFF

The Nunavut Film Development Corporation Operations and Management Core Budget offsets the salary costs of two full-time staff members, namely a Chief Executive Officer and a Projects Manager.

Having two full-time staff allows NFDC to fulfill its mandate and provide the required level of professional and timely service to our clients.

Following the retirement of Derek Mazur, Huw Eirug began his tenure as CEO in September 2017. Following the resignation of Julia Ain Burns in July 2017, Jessica Kotierk was appointed Projects Manager, beginning in November 2017.

CORE BUSINESS OPERATION

Our funding programs for fiscal year 2017-2018 were designed to offer a continuum of both training and opportunity to Nunavummiut and to be responsive to the various levels of experience within the industry:

Entry-level Experience Fund: This program is designed to provide opportunities for Nunavummiut who are interested in exploring the potential for employment in the film, television and digital media industry. Entry-level individuals have the opportunity to explore, engage and educate themselves on the various career opportunities available.

Industry Development and Training Fund: Designed to encourage and foster the professional development and growth in the industry. This fund provides financial support for production company employees and individuals to conduct and/or participate in specific training programs and enhanced learning opportunities.

Short Film Fund: Provides an opportunity for emerging filmmakers to participate in a production program which offers professional mentoring support from established industry leaders over the course of the production of a short film in their own community.

Creative Content Development Fund: Available to Nunavut production companies, this program offers grants for the development of creative content for future film, television and/or digital productions.

Nunavut Spend Incentive Program: By far our largest funding program, the Nunavut spend Incentive Program is an initiative that awards production companies a rebate on the total eligible costs of goods and services purchased and consumed in Nunavut on eligible film, television and digital media productions. Productions that have majority Nunavut ownership can receive a rebate of up to 30% of eligible costs. Equal or minority Nunavut owned co-productions can receive a rebate of up to 20%. Productions that are produced or versioned in Inuktitut can receive an added incentive of up to a maximum of \$40,000.

Market Endowment Fund: This program is open to Nunavut producers and offers financial assistance to attend international markets, co-production conferences and forums on an annual basis. The program was founded to encourage and support the establishment of business relationships and the marketing of indigenous film, television

and projects to buyers, commissioning broadcast editors, and co-financing/co-production partners in Canada and abroad.

Inuktitut Versioning Fund for Existing Programming: Offers grants of up to \$10,000 to create an Inuktitut version of an existing television, film or digital program. In order to be approved for a grant, the applicant must guarantee distribution and/or broadcast of the program within the Territory of Nunavut.

FUNDING RECIPIENTS 2017-2018

The film, television and digital media industry provides diversity to the Nunavut economy and brings recognition to Nunavut on the international stage.

Nunavut Film's direct funding of production brings approximately four million dollars of production revenue into the territory apart from any future revenue from the licensing of finished productions to the Canadian and international broadcast and theatrical market. Each license provides ongoing revenue to the production companies as well as ongoing royalties to Nunavut directors, writers, actors, and film music composers. The production companies retain ownership of finished productions in perpetuity.

All projects submitted to Nunavut Film Development Corporation are reviewed and assessed by an independent review committee. The project must be approved by a majority of the committee to proceed. In order to eliminate any potential conflict of interest, the Board of Directors has no involvement in the selection of projects funded by the corporation.

This year's committee was made up of:

Kent Martin - Independent Producer - Halifax:

Kent Martin is an industry veteran with over 20 years of service to the National Film Board of Canada as Executive Producer and Producer for the Atlantic Region. Currently Kent is an independent producer. Kent is an International and a Canadian multi award winner in both documentary and animation.

Kelly Saxberg - Producer and Director - Thunder Bay:

An award- winning filmmaker, Kelly has over 25 years' experience in the industry as both a producer and director. She is also President of the Bay Street Festival and founder of the Docs North Professional Training Program.

The following productions were awarded funds under our 2016-17 programs:

Entry-Level Experience Fund

No applications to the fund were received in this fiscal year.

Industry Development and Training Fund

One application was received and approved.

Ellen Hamilton / Nyla Innuksuk - *Girls Act Tough/Slash Back Workshop* - \$10,000.

The project gave the opportunity to sixteen young women to participate in a female-led training workshop on acting and filmmaking.

Short Film Fund

Five applications were received and four were approved for funding.

Laura Deal - *How Nivi Got Her Names* - \$25,000

Animation short about a little girl who finds out about the importance of each of her Inuit names.

Sarah McNair-Landry - *Way of the North* - \$25,000

Sarah retraces the route of a four-month dog-sledding expedition her parents undertook around Qikiktaaluk in 1990. Sarah's story is a personal journey following the two expeditions and includes archive footage.

Justin Heymans - *What's My Superpowers?* - \$25,000

The animated project is about an Inuit girl named Nalvana who sees the best in everyone and tries to find out what makes her unique and special.

Andrew Morrison - *Northern Haze: Living Legends* - \$25,000

The short documentary profiles the legendary Hard Rock band from Igloolik as they embark to record a new album.

Creative Content Development Fund

Six applications were received and five were initially approved for funding. One of the successful applicants did not reply to the Letter of Offer within the timeframe stated, and therefore, the offer of funding was withdrawn leaving four projects receiving funding.

Taqut Productions Inc. - *Mia and the Monsters* - Treatment and Concept Art - \$7,500.

Preparation of a treatment and concept artwork for *Mia and the Monsters*, a preschool stop motion animated television series that follows an imaginative little girl and her friends as they wander into the land of Arctic monsters.

Aïda Maigre Touchet - *Our Metamorphoses* - Treatment - \$7,500

Develop treatment, production schedule, shooting schedule, interviewee list and budget breakdown for a documentary film on the history of Iqaluit through archive, testimonials and contemporary pictures.

Piksuk Media - *The Meaning of Ice* - Treatment and sourcing international co-producer - \$7,500.

Initial development of the project which is based on the book *The Meaning of Ice*. The book conveys the experiences of living on the sea ice and confronting global warming in three Inuit communities; Clyde River/Kangiqtugaapik, Qaanaaq, Greenland and Utqiagvik/Barrow, Alaska.

Taqqut Productions Inc. - *Nanuq and Nuka* - Treatment and Concept Art - \$7,500.
Preparation of initial treatment and artwork for a pre-school animation television series. *Nanuq and Nuka (Strong Bear)* is a big, friendly polar bear that lives a healthy lifestyle by trying his best to be active and make healthy choices. He and his friends learn new ways to be active and have fun together.

Nunavut Spend Incentive Program

Eight applications were received, and all were awarded funding.

Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - Nunavummi Mamarijavut Season One - \$74,472
An Arctic Adventure Culinary Series licensed for broadcast by APTN. The series follows Inuit families and Inuit outfitters, venturing out to the places where Inuit have camped and lived out on the land to learn about their history, their names and to hunt for the best food in Nunavut.

Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - Uakallanga! Season One - \$48,235
Uakallanga is also licensed for broadcast by APTN. Inuit make things from by-products of hunted animals all the time such as tools, clothing, household items, and even devises for transportation. This series shows the incredible things made traditionally by Inuit and how they make and use the creations today.

Kingulliit Productions Inc. / Kunuk Cohn Productions Inc. - One Day in the life of Noah Piugattuk - \$90,000 (includes Training Enhancement of \$15,619)
Born in 1900, passing away in 1996, Inuit leader Noah Piugattuk's life history also is the story of Canada's Inuit 20th century. *One Day in the Life of Noah Piugattuk* compresses Piugattuk's 96-year lifetime into a dramatized feature film portrait of one day in that life, a 24-hour day when the sun never sets, out hunting seals on the spring sea ice in May 1961, in the Igloodik region of north Baffin Island.

Kingulliit Productions Inc. - One Century in the life of Noah Piugattuk - \$25,669 (includes Training Enhancement of \$1,772)
One Century in the Lifetime of Noah Piugattuk is an interactive DM website offering a non-linear portrait of the Inuit 20th century, as companion to the film *One Day in the Life of Noah Piugattuk*. The website richly expands Piugattuk's story at six key periods of his life to see the collective life of Canada's Inuit from the Inuit point of view.

Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - Takiginai Web Series Four - \$18,898
The Takuginai Web Series engages children aged 5 to 8 years with Inuit language content that also introduces cultural values as respect for elders, sharing and patience. The series uses a mixture of fictional puppet stories, documentary segments and animated graphics. The 15-minute web episodes will be available on isuma.tv

Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - Pituqait - Web Series Three - \$25,000
Pituqait (The Old Stuff) utilizes IBC archive material to explore Inuit society past and present. Each episode features a different aspect of Inuit culture. The 10-minute web episodes will be available on isuma.tv.

Taqut Productions Inc. - Uqaliq & Kalla Shorts Season One - \$54,300 (includes Training Enhancement)

Ukaliq & Kalla is an educational children's series that follows the lively characters of Ukaliq, an excitable and impatient arctic hare, and Kalla, an even-tempered and intelligent lemming. The series is a blend of 2D animation and live action to engage a preschool audience of 2- to 5-year-olds. NITV has exclusive first window rights in Inuktitut.

Qanurli 7 Productions Inc. - QANURLI VII - \$60,000

This is the final season of the popular and self-proclaimed best Inuktitut comedy on TV. The series has been licensed for broadcast by APTN.

Market Endowment Fund

Alethea Arnaquq-Baril was awarded \$1442.69 to attend ImagineNATIVE in Toronto and \$665 to attend The Arctic Circle Assembly in Reykjavik, Iceland.

Vinnie Karetak was awarded \$3,276.75 to attend ImagineNATIVE in Toronto

Joshua Qaumariaq was awarded \$3,276.75 to attend ImagineNATIVE in Toronto

Stacey Aglok MacDonald was awarded \$3,426.75 to attend ImagineNATIVE in Toronto

Natar Ungalaq was awarded \$5,000.00 to attend The Canadian Screen Awards Broadcast Gala in Toronto as a nominee.

Inuktitut Language Incentive and Versioning Fund

Eleven applications were received and all approved. The following amounts were awarded:

Laura Deal - *How Nivi Got Her Names* - \$5,000

Sarah McNair-Landry - *Way of the North* - \$5,000

Justin Heymans - *What's My Superpowers?* - \$5,000

Andrew Morrison - *Northern Haze: Living Legends* - \$5,000

Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - Nunavummi Mamarijavut Season One - \$40,000

Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - Uakallanga! Season One - \$28,373

Kingulliit Productions Inc. / Kunuk Cohn Productions Inc. - One Day in the life of Noah Piugattuk - \$40,000

Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - Takiginai Web Series Four - \$27,790

Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - Pituqait - Web Series Three - \$20,000

Taqut Productions Inc. - Uqaliq & Kalla Shorts Season One - \$18,100

Qanurli 7 Productions Inc. - QANURLI VII - \$40,000

NFDC MARKET ATTENDANCE:

Huw Eirug (CEO) and Jessica Kotierk (Projects Manager) attended the Prime Time Conference 2018 in Ottawa. Prime Time is a major industry gathering of government funding and regulatory bodies as well as most Canadian broadcasters and independent film production companies. While at Prime Time, Huw and Jessica attended the meeting of the Association of Provincial Funding Agencies.

Huw Eirug represented NFDC at the 2018 Indigenous Film Conference in Kautokeino, Norway in March 2018.

During the Conference, NFDC, in collaboration with the Canada Media Fund, the International Sami Film Institute, Greenland Film Makers and Archy Film Association based in Yakutia, Russia announced the establishment of the **Arctic Indigenous Film Fund** (AIFF).

The main activities of the Arctic Indigenous Film Fund are to support development of high quality Indigenous film/TV productions, support production of high quality Indigenous film/TV productions, encourage and create new platforms for Arctic co-productions, and help produce culturally-relevant film and TV series. The fund will also build a network between film institutions, companies, producers and Universities, thereby strengthening business and competitive advantages; organize film and TV education for young Indigenous talents; and lead common projects and programs with partners.

Also, during the Conference, Nunavut Film Development signed a Partnership Agreement with Telefilm and the Sami Film Institute. This agreement is to establish a fund for a micro budget feature film co-production between Nunavut and Sami. The aim is to instigate collaboration between filmmakers in both regions.

The funding available is up to \$250,000, with Telefilm funding up to \$150,000 and the Sami Film Institute contributing up to \$100,000.

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Audited statements for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2018 are available.

2017-2018 BUSINESS PLAN GOALS

Goal 1 - Update NFDC Office, Governance and Administration

Reviewed and updated administration procedures and reporting systems. Updated filing, storage and record keeping procedures. Moved to new office in the 8th Storey (Suite 107). All files catalogued. Adopted Dropbox as method of delivery for Board of Directors documents. Central shared server (NAS) installed in office for digital file retention and sharing.

Deficit Recovery Plan, Complete Assessment of the Organization and Corporation Policy Manual approved by Board of Directors and GN.

Contributed to national discussions on workplace harassment with industry guidelines being drafted. Once complete, CEO will update board on the guiding principles, which will require Board approval.

The HR Committee reviewed staff evaluation process in order to be implemented in the 6-month reviews of the CEO and Projects Manager. HR Committee discussing the appointment of new Board members.

Goal 2 - Facilitate a Territorial Industry Conference

ED&T invited NFDC to apply for funding to facilitate an Industry Conference to be held in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Goal 3 - Territorial Skills Development

NFDC's funding application to facilitate a 3-year Territorial Film and Digital Media training plan was submitted to Makigiaqta in December 2017. A decision on whether the application was successful has been postponed until June 2018. Opened discussions with Arctic Nunavut College regarding the Makigiaqta submission and the feasibility of establishing an accredited program under the Media Arts program.

Goal 4 - Establish Relationships with Funding Organizations

In collaboration with the Canada Media Fund, the International Sami Film Institute, Greenland Film Makers and Archy Film Association in Yakutia, Russia, NFDC announced the establishment of the **Arctic Indigenous Film Fund (AIFF)**.

NFDC signed a Partnership Agreement for a **'Micro Budget' Feature Fund** with Telefilm and the Sami Film Institute.

Opened discussions regarding establishing a partnership with Canada Council for the Arts.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2017-2018

Alethea Arnaquq-Baril was presented with the **Governor General's Meritorious Service Cross** in recognition for "inspiring Inuit communities to reconnect with their ancestral values and lost traditions through her films."

Zacharias Kunuk was invited to join the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**, the group that picks the Oscar award winners.

Alethea Arnaquq-Baril was one of 12 recipients of the Birks Diamond Tribute to the Year's Women in Film at the 2017 Toronto International Film Festival. The recipients were selected by a pan-Canadian jury of 27 journalists and bloggers covering the world of art, culture and entertainment.

Zacharias Kunuk's latest feature film, *Maliglutit*, was nominated for two 2017 **Canadian Screen Awards**. Best Motion Picture and Original Screenplay.

Natar Ungalaq was nominated for a **2018 Canadian Screen Award** in the "Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role" category for the feature film *Iqaluit*.

Zacharias Kunuk received the **Technicolor Clyde Gilmour Award**, awarded to "a Canadian who has enriched the understanding and appreciation of film in this country." Under the terms of the award, Technicolor donates \$50,000 in services to a filmmaker of the recipient's choice. Zacharias Kunuk chose Isabella Weetaluktuk, a young Inuk filmmaker who prefers to be known by her Inuktitut name, Asinnajaq.

The Astro Theatre hosted the Nunavut premiere of the feature film **Iqaluit** in April 2017 in the company of local actors, extras and technicians who were involved in the production.

To Celebrate Inuktitut-language month, the **Nunavut Bilingual Education Society** showcased six children's short films at the Astro Theatre, Iqaluit in February 2018.

First screening of the documentary feature film, **Edna's Bloodline**, held in Kukluktuk in November 2017.

Two young filmmakers from the Arviat Film Society, **Jamie Okatsiak and Samuel Pauppa**, had their documentary **Makkuktut** (Youth) screened at the Winnipeg Aboriginal Film Festival in November 2017.

Two feature films, *The Grizzlies* and *Iqaluit: The Movie* incorporated **Adam Tanuyak**, known as rapper Hyper-T's music into their soundtracks.

The digital media and gaming company, **Pinnguaq**, received the **2017 Social Enterprise Award** for "their outstanding contribution to the communities of the North"

NFDC sponsored the Nunavut premier of the feature film **Indian Horse**, featuring the actor **Johnny Issaluk**. A Q&A with Johnny followed the screening.

Pinnguaq's "Beneath the Floes", an interactive digital novel, launched. The game tells the story of Qalupalik, a creature that dwells beneath the ice. Available as a download in English and Inuktitut (<https://bravemule.itch.io/beneathfloes>).

NUNAVUT FILM COMMISSION

In addition to the programs above, NFDC provided a service to the Government of Nunavut through the operation of the Nunavut Film Commission. The Commission operates to attract Canadian and International production companies, broadcasters, and studios to choose Nunavut as a location destination for their productions and to provide informational support and logistical connections for such productions.

Nunavut Film Commission supported 24 visiting productions to the territory.

Requests Received:

Discovery Channel - *Mighty Planes* - Footage

Global Photo Associate Inc. LA - Location scouting services

Urban Post Production Toronto - Location scouting services

Denyse Ouellette, Ottawa - *After the Ice: The Arctic in Transition* Documentary - Location Services

Sienna Films - BBC Miniseries- Location Services

Clay Weltas - Means of Production - Crew availability

Claude Hudon - Transport Canada - Location Services

Lucie Taquin, ELEPHANT, France - *The Extraordinary Powers of the Human Body* - Location Services

Rhombus / See Saw Productions - *The North Water* (5-episode drama) - Location Services, Crew

Tank Agency, Montreal - *From the North Festival* - Location Services, Crew

Little Window Productions, Montreal - *Collab* (360 VR Project) - Location Services

Hilary Pryor - *Moosemeat & Marmalade* (APTN Cooking Show) - Location Services, Crew

Avatara Ayuso - *Three Women, Three Films* - Location Services

Frantic Films - *Still Standing* (CBC) - Location Services

Jim Baird, Adventurer - *Web series for Backpacker magazine* - Permits Enquiry

Market Road Films - Enquiry as to required permits for filming wildlife on Ellesmere Island this summer, using drones or helicopter.

Foster Visuals - *While I'm Here* - Local contact and artists in Cape Dorset (Feb/March).

George Reese (Imaginary and Seeka.tv) - Enquiry for Nunavut producer to partner with and details of Nunavut Spend Incentive Fund.

Paddy Eason - *Film/TV Project* - Looking for a collaborator on an Inupiat story.

Gearshift Films - Research for Feature - Local fixer / producers to meet in Cambridge Bay.

Alvara Fernandez-Pulpeiro - *Palm at the End of the Mind* - Local production partner in Qikiqtarjuaq (August 2018).

National Film Board of Canada - Documentary with Tanya Tagaq and Chelsea McMullan - Cultural awareness session before shooting in Cambridge Bay and Pond Inlet (Summer 2018).

Great Pacific Media - *High Arctic Haulers (CBC)* - Multi-community stories and contacts for crew and fixers (April - August 2018).

Merit Motion Pictures / Films a Cinq (France) - *March of the Polar Bears* - Advice on required permissions for shooting wildlife in Sanikiluaq and Hudson Bay (June 2018).

NFDC RELATIONSHIP WITH INDUSTRY

Established monthly industry gathering to foster information sharing and collaboration.

Began publishing monthly newsletter (TAKKU!) to communicate industry news, events and information.

CEO and Projects Manager attended the bi-annual meeting of the Association of Provincial Funding Agencies during Prime Time, Ottawa.

CEO appointed board member of the newly formed Arctic Indigenous Film Fund and was a guest speaker at the Indigenous Film Conference in Kautokeino, Norway.

NFDC is a co-signatory of a Partnership Agreement for a 'Micro Budget' Feature Fund with Telefilm and the Sami Film Institute.

NFDC is a co-signatory of the industry workplace harassment guidelines.