



nunavut film development corporation

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## **ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT 2020-2021**

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## Highlights of 2020-2021

*The Story Telling Fund* was launched, encouraging self-distancing type activities. 26 projects were approved for funding. Other programs that saw an increase in applications were the *Creative Content Fund* with 18 projects approved and the *Inuktitut Language Incentive Fund* with 28 projects approved. The *Nunavut Spend Incentive Program* approved 9 projects.

NFDC welcomed the launch of *Uvagut TV* in January 2021, which is available throughout Canada on Shaw Satellite Direct, Arctic Co-op Cable (NU and NWT) FCNQ (Nunavik).

NFDC released its five-year strategic plan. The strategic plan provides direction on how NFDC will best serve Nunavut's screen industry for the next five years (2020-2025). The document is available [here](#).

NFDC, in advocating for equitable bandwidth capacity throughout Nunavut, prepared a study titled *Broadband's Impact on Nunavut's Screen-Based Industry*. With funding from the Economic Development and Transportation, the study mapped out the current environment and future trends of broadband in Nunavut for the next five years. The document is available [on our website](#).

NFDC released its 2019-2020 Economic Impact Report outlining the economic impact of its production funding. The report outlines that \$1 of funding from the *Nunavut Spend Incentive Program* generated an additional \$5.57 in production activity in Nunavut and generated an additional \$12 in production activity throughout Canada.

The Harold Greenberg Fund announced the recipients of the 2021 *Northern Shorts Program*. Cambridge Bay's writer/director Ipeelie Ootoova and producer Sarah Jancke were the worthy winners from Nunavut with *Irninnu Unikaara*. The dramatic short follows a young Inuk who finds out his girlfriend is pregnant, triggering old trauma and leading him to go caribou hunting.

Published bi-weekly, our email newsletter *Takkuu!* has increased the sharing of industry related news and support for screen-based artists throughout the year.

The Nunavut FIT industry workshops were postponed for this year. Eight applicants participated in the *Under the Midnight Sun* Video Boot Camp held in Iqaluit during the evenings of July 20 to July 24, 2020. Students were taught how to shoot and edit.

Taqut Productions won the Best Animated Short at the Canadian Screen Award for *The Giant Bear*.

*One Day in the Life of Noah Piugattuk* was the opening film of the Nuuk International Film Festival in Greenland. *Tia and Piujuq* and *Restless River* also screened at the festival. Due to Covid restrictions no delegates from Nunavut were able to attend the festival.

**The Nunavut Film Development Corporation (NFDC)** provides training and funding through seven funding programs for the production and marketing of screen-based media. NFDC also provides a service through the operation of the Nunavut Film Commission.

NFDC's 2019-2020 Operations and Management core budget is \$408,000 and its Film, Television and Digital Media Funding budget is \$1,152,700.

### Mandate

The Nunavut Film Development Corporation (NFDC) is mandated by the Government of Nunavut to increase economic opportunities for Nunavummiut in the screen-based industry, and to promote Nunavut as a world-class circumpolar production location.

### Vision

Nunavut is internationally recognized as a leader in Indigenous screen-based media. Talented and experienced Nunavummiut professionals are producing unique Inuit stories for screen, which are valued by local, national and global audiences for their excellence and unique perspective.

### Mission

The mission of the Nunavut Film Development Corporation is to support and develop a vibrant screen-based industry in Nunavut:

1. Strengthen the labour skills of the screen-based industry in Nunavut;
2. Share, communicate, and promote Nunavut screen-based media content;
3. Support and advise guest productions working in Nunavut.

### Values

NFDC brings the following values and principles to its work and upholds them in its internal and external relationships, including through the *On-Screen Protocols and Pathways* document.

NFDC ensures that all activities it undertakes will respect and be guided by the ethical behaviours embedded within Inuit societal values:

- o Innuqatigiitsiarniq: respecting others, relationships and caring for people
- o Tunnganarniq: fostering good spirit by being open, welcoming, and inclusive
- o Pijitsirniq: serving and providing for family and/or community
- o Aajiiqatigiinni: decision making through discussion and consensus
- o Pilimmaksarniq/Pijariuqsarniq: development of skills through observation, mentoring, practice, and effort
- o Piliriqatigiinni/Ikajuqtigiinni: working together for a common cause
- o Qanuqtuurniq: being innovative and resourceful
- o Avatittinnik Kamatsiarniq: respect and care for the land, animals, and the environment

## Core Responsibilities

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

- Work with the community to sustain and grow a competitive Nunavut owned and controlled screen-based 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 screen-based 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 began 2020-2021, governed by a Board of Directors comprising of the following individuals:

Stacey Aglok (Iqaluit), President and Chairperson  
Graham Dickson (Iqaluit), Vice-President  
Joey Evalik (Cambridge Bay), Secretary-Treasurer  
Alethea Arnaquq-Baril (Iqaluit),  
Eric Anoe Jr. (Arviat)  
Carol Kunnuk (Igloolik)  
Heather Igloliorte (Ottawa)

Alethea Arnaquq-Baril resigned as Board Member in the July 30, 2020 meeting.

Carol Kunnuk resigned as Board Member in the November 5, 2020 meeting.

Rico Manitok was appointed as a new Board Member in the February 18, 2021 meeting.

The composition of the Board of Directors is guided by a directive outlined in the Government of Nunavut's Film, Television, and Digital Media Development Contribution Policy. 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 the Nunavut Film Development Corporation.

The Nunavut Film Development Corporation has two full-time staff members, namely a Chief Executive Officer (Huw Eirug) and a Projects Manager (Corinne Dunphy). Roselynn Akulukjuk was appointed Projects Manager on contract for the duration of Corinne Dunphy's maternity leave.

### Core Business Operation

Our funding programs are 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:

The Story Telling Fund is a new program. It encourages applications for self-distancing type activities and was established in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Entry-level Experience Fund provides opportunities for Nunavummiut who are interested in exploring the potential for employment in the film, television and digital media industry.

Industry Development and Training Fund encourages and fosters the professional development and growth in the industry.

Short Film Fund offers professional mentoring support from established industry leaders over the course of the production of a short film.

Creative Content Development Fund supports the development of pre-production materials for future film, television and/or digital productions.

Nunavut Spend Incentive Program 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.

Market Endowment Fund provides financial assistance to attend international markets, co-production conferences and forums.

Inuktitut Versioning Fund for Existing Programming offers grants to create an Inuktitut version of an existing television, film or digital program and can be applicable to applications through the Nunavut Spend Incentive Program and the Short Film Fund.

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

### Funding Recipients 2020-2021

The following applications were awarded funds under our 2020-21 funding programs:

#### Story Telling Fund

28 applications were received, and 26 were approved.

#### **Arvaaq Media - *Anaana's Tent Website* - \$7,500**

Creating and adding 16 eBooks for children to read in both English and Inuktitut to website. Also adding songs and lyric pages so children can sing along learning Inuit songs and phonics songs.

#### **Thor Simonsen - *Tumitit* - \$7,500**

[Music video with Joey Nowyuk](#), filmed in Pangnirtung.

#### **Sean Guistini - *New Stories from the Eastern Arctic Archives* - \$7,500**

Research, acquisition and editing with original sound and music design of archival films of the Canadian Eastern Arctic.

#### **Vinnie Karetak - *The Birthday Party* - \$7,500**

Script development and first draft for a short fiction film.

#### **Red Marrow Media - *Wine Chips, Kuku* - \$7,750**

5-episode x 40-60 min podcast hosted by Alethea Arnaquq-Baril and Stacey Aglok from Iqaluit.

#### **Nadia Mike - *Leah* - \$7,500**

Development (bible, concept art, episode synopsis) of the two main characters in *Leah's Moustache Party* into a series.

#### **Nunavut Educational Broadcast Society - *Engaged Reading* - \$7,500**

Creation of three videos to be made available in Inuktitut and English. The videos are intended to support an immersive Inuktitut educational and literacy experience in the home. The videos adapt the following published books: *Inuit Games* by Anguti Johnston, *Siuluk the Last Tuniq* by Nadia Sammurtok, *Palluq and Qiliqti Help Their Anaanatsiaq* by Jeela Palluq Cloutier.

**Simeonie Kisa-Knickelbein - VHF - \$3,399**

First draft of a short film script about a man who comes home and turns on his VHF radio to hear someone asking for help.

**Myna Ishulutak (Red Marrow) - Tupiq - \$7,7500**

Production of a rough cut of short documentary with Jaco Ishulutak.

**Aïda Maigre-Touchet - Iqaluit Military Project - \$7,750**

Project development of gathering Inuktitut audio and video content about Iqaluit's military history (Crystal Two, and DEW Line sites).

**Miali Coley Sudlovenick - Tusaavisii Podcast - \$7,750**

Series of podcasts containing traditional oral storytelling and conversations. [Tusaavisii Podcast](#).

**Simeonie Kisa-Knickelbein - Smoke Break Podcast - \$5,200**

Series of podcasts with three Nunavummiut sharing their views on growing up as modern-day Inuit. [Smoke Break Podcast](#).

**Aakuluk Media - Kuluk S1 Website - \$7,500**

Kuluk is an Inuktitut preschool television series designed to entertain and educate infants and toddlers (ages 0 to 3). Creation of 13 short puppet videos and flash cards that follow ECE guidelines and adding a parent's page with resource information. <https://kuluktv.com/>

**Thor Simonsen - Joey Nowyuk 'Pray' - \$7,500**

Production of [music video with Joey Nowyuk](#).

**Nadia Summortuk - Tuktu's Journey - \$7,500**

Script adaptation from the book following Tuktu as he searches the tundra and meets new friends who all something to teach him.

**Jaypeetee Arnaq - Nunavummi Ujjiqsaqtit - \$7,500**

Treatment for an Inuit children's television series. Each episode focuses on a specific scientific topic in the Arctic.

**Jason Sudlovenick - Outdoors Iqaluit YouTube Channel - \$5,182.14**

A YouTube channel showing the culture, landscape, hunting and fishing, wildlife, and product reviews in Iqaluit. [Outdoors Iqaluit YouTube Channel](#).

**Barbara Okpik - Digital Storytelling - \$7,495**

The development and production of a short 3-5-minute multi-media film on Barbara's Grandfather and narrated by her Aunt.

**Christine Enooya Nutarak - Digital Storytelling - \$7,750**

Christine's story is titled *Attakaalik and his Grandsons go Dog Sledding* and is a story about life on the land in Pond Inlet.

**Rocco Canil - *Digital Storytelling* - \$7,500**

The focus of Rocco's story is recommendations for changes to youth mental health services in Nunavut based on his and his friends' personal experiences and interviews.

**Aviaq Johnston - *Saunik* - \$7,500**

Treatment for an original idea about Kanaju, a young bi-racial Inuk girl and her half-sister Elisapee, stumbling upon a mythical world in Nunavut full of creatures from Inuit legends.

**Kippasu Productions - *Patik Podcast* - \$7,750**

Series of Podcasts with Joshua Qaumariaq, Anguti Johnston and Wager Ford playing cards.  
[Patik Podcast](#).

**Ashley Kilabuk Savard - *Reclaim* - \$7,750**

Final draft and translation into Inuktitut of Ashley's script which has also been supported by the Sámi Film Institute as part of the Arctic Chills initiative.

**Myriam Sevigny - *Shauna Seeteenak Music Video* - \$7,500**

Production of [music video featuring Shauna Seeteenak](#) performing "See the Light."

**Myna Ishulutak - *Tupiq 2* - \$7,500**

Final cut and postproduction of short documentary with Jaco Ishulutak.

**David Poisey - *Pangnirtung Fisheries* - \$7,500**

Production of short film telling the story of the Pangnirtung fisheries and the Pang fishermen.

**[Entry-Level Experience Fund](#)**

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

**[Industry Development and Training Fund](#)**

Two applications were received and approved.

**Aïda Maigre-Touchet - *Training on Davinci Resolve* - \$5,000**

In person training on Davinci Resolve, media management and conform, editing, sound, special effects and animation with fusion, colour grading and exporting.

**Aïda Maigre-Touchet - *Lighting and Sound* - \$3,705**

In person training on mastering lighting and sound in video.

## Short Film Fund

Four new applications were received and approved. Previous funding commitments to productions that were completed in this fiscal year totaled \$13,666.19.

### **Nadia Mike - *Race to Kimmirut* - \$25,000**

22-minute documentary on Davidee Qaumariaq and the annual snowmobile race from Iqaluit to Kimmirut.

### **Nadia Sammurtok - *The Owl and Two Rabbits* - \$25,000**

Animation on two rabbit sisters who disobey their parent's warnings about playing too far from home. Soon, a hungry owl swoops down threatening to eat the rabbits for supper. The rabbit sisters struggle to escape the grip of his strong talons, but eventually find a way to free themselves, learning a valuable lesson in the end.

### **Ipeelie Ootoova - *Irninnu Unikaara* - \$25,000**

This year's Nunavut winner of the Harold Greenberg Fund / Territories Shorts Program. When a young Inuk finds out his girlfriend is pregnant, old trauma is triggered and he flees the house and goes caribou hunting. Out on the land he is led astray by a shape shifter that forces him to face his demons and decide whether or not he can be a father.

### **Myna Ishulutak - *Pikiulliaqtut* - \$25,000**

A very personal short film featuring Myna and her Uncle Jaco celebrating Inuit resilience. Myna and her Uncle go out on the land to hunt and pick duck eggs while Jaco shares his traditional knowledge.

## Creative Content Development Fund

Twenty-four applications were received and eighteen were approved for funding.

### **Taqut Productions - *Putuguq and Kublu Phase 1* - \$7,500**

Treatment and concept artwork for an animated television series based on the Inhabit Media book Putuguq and Kublu.

### **Taqut Productions - *Tundra Friends Phase 2* - \$7,500**

Episode scripts for a 13 x 5 minutes animation series aimed at children between the ages 2-7 years. The series has a development commitment from APTN.

### **Taqut Productions - *Hidden World Phase 2* - \$7,500**

First draft scripts and animatics for a 2D animated children's series that introduces a group of children from Nunavut that accidentally stumble into a world of ancient myth and magic.

### **Siku Entertainment - *Naraluta* - \$7,500**

Treatment and short teaser for a television documentary series. Viewers learn about the issues Inuit hunters face such as the warming environment, changing migration patterns, and follow Inuit elders on hunting trips.

**Red Marrow Media - *People* - \$7,500**

Preparation of an outline for a pilot script of a comedy-drama television series.

**Red Marrow Media - *Lucky Dillon* - \$7,500**

Travel and research for a proposed fiction feature film.

**Ashley Kilabuk-Savard - *The Wandering Phase 2* - \$7,500**

First draft script for a dramatic fiction feature where a young Inuk woman gets lost on the land. She must confront her troubled past to remember essential survival skills taught to her by her late grandparents.

**Taqqut Productions - *Hidden World Phase 3* - \$7,500**

Demo tape for the animated children's series that introduces a group of children from Nunavut that accidentally stumble into a world of ancient myth and magic.

**Taqqut Productions - *Tundra Friends Phase 3* - \$7,500**

Final draft script and animated segment demo for a 13 x 5 minutes animation series aimed at children between the ages 2-7 years. The series has a development commitment from APTN.

**Taqqut Productions - *Putuquq and Kublu Phase 2* - \$7,500**

First draft script and animatic for a children's animated television series based on the Inhabit Media book Putuquq and Kublu.

**Myna Ishulutak - *Upirngaami Phase 1* - \$7,500**

Treatment and first draft script for a feature documentary showing the survival skills Inuit use during springtime.

**Myna Ishulutak - *Upirngaami Phase 2* - \$7,500**

Final draft script, production budget, shooting breakdown and supporting documentation for an application to the Canada Council for the Arts for funding towards the feature documentary.

**Taqqut Productions - *At the Cabin Phase 1* - \$7,500**

Bible and concept artwork for a pre-school television series hosted by a variety of Inuit musicians and cultural performers. The hosts introduce varied educational segments (animation, puppet, and live action) sharing Inuit oral stories, traditional land knowledge, as well as traditional educational content (numbers, colors, shapes, the alphabet, etc.).

**Taqqut Productions - *Putuquq and Kublu Phase 3* - \$7,500**

Preparation of a demo tape for a children's animated television series.

**Taqqut Productions - *At the Cabin Phase 2* - \$7,500**

First draft scripts and animatic for a pre-school television series combining puppetry, animation, and live action.

**Tulaffik - *Tartupaluk Phase 1* - \$7,500**

Concept design and demo for a virtual reality co-production project in which users are invited to visit the imaginary Republic of Hans Island, otherwise known as Tartupaluk ('looking like a kidney'). The project blends 360 live-action video, motion-capture animation and VFX to bring to

life a poetic, sometimes humoristic Inuit utopia set in this barren uninhabited 1.3 km<sup>2</sup> (0.5 sq mi) island within the territorial waters of both Canada and Greenland.

**Umik Media Inc - *Becoming Me Phase 1* - \$7,500**

Treatment, first draft and pitch package development for a teen television mini-series about a young transgender boy coping with everyday life, one step at a time, in the face of uncertainty. Where he learns to embrace his true self and coexisting with people who might not accept him.

**Kippasu Productions - *Roommates* - \$7,500**

Treatment and first draft script for a comedy series revolving around a trio of roommates living in Iqaluit. This trio, through funny, real life situations must learn how to live with each other and understand each other, as each is from a different town.

**Nunavut Spend Incentive Program**

Ten applications were received, and all were granted funding. Previous funding commitments to productions that were completed in this fiscal year totaled \$8,877.42.

**Taqut Productions - *Kuluk S2* - \$49,548 (includes Training Enhancement)**

Kuluk is an Inuktitut preschool series designed to entertain and educate infants and toddlers (ages 0 to 3). Kuluk is loosely modelled after shows like Baby Einstein and Galloping Winds. The series features puppets, animation, Inuit music segments, animal footage, and live action segments featuring children. The series is available on the taku.TV platform.

**Taqut Productions - *Arctic Song* - request \$24,793.56 (includes Training Enhancement)**

This TV Special is a co-production with the National Film Board of Canada, telling several Inuit creation myths. The animated special weaves together throat singing, animated images and poetic writing from two Inuit artists- Germaine Arnaktauyok and Celina Kuluk.

**Kingulliit Productions - *Tarriaksuit* - \$250,000 (includes Training Enhancement)**

Feature length drama set in Igloolik in 2021. The film follows Olivia, a journalist and filmmaker, who returns to her community to present at a controversial upcoming mining hearing postponed during the pandemic shutdown. When she begins to have visions of her childhood friend, who mysteriously disappeared at the mine, her investigation raises questions about her family's past, Inuit shamanism, and the effects of colonial gender violence on Inuit women

**Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - *Nunavummi Mamarijavut S4* - \$20,379**

Fourth season of the 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! S4* - \$18,614**

A fourth season licensed for broadcast by APTN. This series shows the incredible things made traditionally by Inuit and how they make and use the creations today.

**Taqut Productions - *Tundra Friends S1* - \$104,313 (includes Training Enhancement)**

Following development through the Creative Content Development Fund, this animated preschool and children's television series received a broadcast licence for 13 episodes from APTN. A

group of Arctic animal friends learn how to recognise, name, and understand their feelings in healthy ways.

**Taqut Productions - *Anaana's Tent S3* - \$73,500 (includes Training Enhancement)**

The production incurred additional costs due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In order to complete the project, and as stipulated in NFDC's 'Pivot Plan' guidelines, additional funding to complete the project was granted.

**Red Marrow SB Productions - *SlashBack* - \$23,734.80 (includes Training Enhancement)**

Due to additional costs incurred because of the postponement and eventual rescheduling of pick-up shooting in Pangnirtung during the Covid-19 pandemic, additional funding was granted to complete the feature film.

**Taqut Productions - *At the Cabin Season 1* - \$98,523 (includes Training Enhancement)**

Following development funding, this pre-school series will be aired on the new Inuktitut language OTT platform, taku.TV. The series is hosted by a variety of Inuit musicians and cultural performers introducing educational segments (animation, puppet, and live action) sharing Inuit oral stories, traditional land knowledge, as well as traditional educational content (numbers, colors, shapes, the alphabet, etc.).

**Market Endowment Fund**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no applications to the fund were received in this fiscal year.

**Inuktitut Language Incentive and Versioning Fund**

**Inuktitut Language Incentive**

Thirty applications were received while two were rejected. Previous funding commitments to productions that were completed in this fiscal year totaled \$9,793.

Taqut Productions - *Kuluk S2* - \$20,141  
Taqut Productions - *Arctic Song* - \$40,000  
Nadia Mike - *Race to Kimmirut* - \$5,000  
Nadia Sammurtok - *The Owl and Two Rabbits* - \$5,000  
Sean Guistini - *New Stories from the Eastern Arctic Archives* - \$1,500  
Arvaaq Media - *Anaana's Tent Website* - \$1,500  
Kingulliit Productions - *Tarriaksuit* - \$40,000  
ENBS - *Engaged Reading* - \$1,500  
Myna Ishutak (Red Marrow) - *Tupiq* - \$1,500  
Aïda Maigre Touchet - *Iqaluit Military Project* - \$1,500  
Miali Coley Sudlovenick - *Tusaavisii Podcast* - \$1,500  
Aakuluk Media - *Kuluk Website* - \$1,500  
Nadia Summurtok - *Tuktu's Journey* - \$1,500  
Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - *Nunavummi Mamarijavut S4* - \$29,968  
Inuit Broadcasting Corporation - *Uakallanga!* - \$27,374  
Jason Sudlovenick - *Outdoors Iqaluit* - \$1,500

Taqut Productions - ***Tundra Friends S1*** - \$34,771  
Taqut Productions - ***Anaana's Tent S3*** - \$24,500  
Christine Enooya Nutarak - ***Digital Storytelling*** - \$1,500  
Rocco Canil - ***Digital Storytelling*** - \$1,500  
Ashley Kilabuk Savard - ***Reclaim*** - \$1,500  
Myna Ishulutak - ***Tupiq 2*** - \$1,500  
Red Marrow SB Productions - ***Slashback*** - \$11,867  
Taqut Productions - ***At the Cabin Season 1*** - \$32,841  
David Poisey - ***Pangnirtung Fisheries*** - \$1,500  
Ipeelie Ootoova - ***Irninnu Unikaara*** - \$5,000  
Jaypeetee Arnaquq - ***Nunavummi Ujjiqsaqtit*** - \$1,500  
Myna Ishulutak - ***Pikiulliaqtut*** - \$5,000

### Inuktit Language Versioning

Three applications were received and all approved.

#### **Taqut Productions - Meeka Shorts - \$8,107.47**

The series provides age-appropriate and engaging methods for children to learn the values of healthy living

#### **Taqut Productions - Gordon and Paddy - \$10,00**

Gordon & Paddy is a 62min 2D animated film about a young mouse who becomes Police Superintendent, adapted from the book by Ulf Nilsson and Gitte Spee.

#### **Taqut Productions - Orphan and the Amautalik - \$10,000**

Based on an Inuit traditional story, this video tells the tale of a brave and quick-thinking orphan and his encounter with a strange Arctic ogress.

### Nunavut FIT Professional Development Fund

One application was received and approved.

#### **Ipeelie Ootoova – \$664.00**

Online Film Acting Workshop

## 2020-2021 Business Plan Goals

### Goal 1 - Continued Industry Support During COVID-19

A new funding program, The Story Telling Fund, was launched in April, 2020. The fund encouraged applications for self-distancing type activities. Applications have varied from script writing, web design, archive editing, music videos to podcasting. The program also contributes funding from the *Inuktit Language Incentive Fund*, and uniquely, offers a contribution towards internet usage. Twenty-six projects were supported by NFDC.

The *Under the Midnight Sun Video Boot Camp* was held in Iqaluit in July, 2020 with eight participants. Students were taught how to shoot and edit under the guidance of instructors Lisa Milosavljevic, Mark Aspland and Sim Knickelbein. NFDC also hosted a webinar where Red Marrow Media's Alethea Arnaquq-Baril and Stacey Aglok MacDonald discussed, very entertainingly, Project Development.

To further encourage creativity, a *Short Video Challenge* was launched for emerging filmmakers to submit a 1-3-minute short video to be streamed on the Nunavut Film Facebook page. The initiative had limited success with very few contributors. NFDC also launched Nunavujait, a Facebook page dedicated to showcasing the opportunities and talent emerging from COVID-19. The aim of the page was to act as a hub for creative organizations to share content all in one place. The page has had limited success with its usage much less that we hoped envisaged.

Our monthly newsletter, *Takkuu!* was increased in April to a weekly publication before becoming a bi-weekly publication from July onwards. It is a platform to publish industry news and information sharing.

Throughout the year, NFDC has been offering advice and guidance on a confidential basis to industry practitioners faced with continuing their business activities during the pandemic. Some Nunavut companies applied to the Canada Emergency Response Benefits program (CERB) and the Emergency Relief Funds disbursed by the Canada Media Fund (CMF) and Telefilm Canada.

In addition to the Nunavut Arts Taskforce, NFDC has participated on several other task forces including the Association of Provincial and Territorial Film Agencies (APTFA) National Industry Task Force, and in partnership with the North West Territories Film Commission and Yukon Media Development, a Pan Territorial Industry Task Force. The CEO is also a member of the (APTFA) Film Commission Advisory Committee which reports back to the National Industry Task Force. The lack of COVID insurance coverage for productions continued to be a major issue throughout the year.

## Goal 2 - Industry Growth

Early in the year, NFDC released its five-year strategic plan and applied for an increase in funding for two specific programs.

The strategic plan provides direction on how NFDC will best serve Nunavut's screen industry for the next five years (2020-2025). The document is available [here](#).

NFDC's application for increased funding for the existing Inuktitut Language Incentive Fund and new funding towards a Micro Film Fund (under 5 minutes) were rejected by the GN's Department of Culture and Heritage. The first application reflected the continued increase in demand for support towards creating Inuktitut content and versioning existing films and series, while the Micro Film Fund application reflected industry trends and the increased consumption of short form content.

Creating a skills database is an ongoing activity, while NFDC released its *Economic Impact Report* in September outlining the economic impact of its production funding and training initiatives. The report outlined that \$1 of funding from the Nunavut Spend Incentive Fund generated an additional \$5.57 in production activity spend in Nunavut. Each dollar that NFDC receives from ED&T for this production fund contributes \$12 of production activity spend in Canada. This compares favourably with the CMF's latest statistics which outline \$1 of CMF funding generated an additional \$4.12 in production activity. The highest level since CMF was established. NFDC has supported Inuit trainee positions, and 80% of the productions received funding from the *Inuktitut Language Incentive Fund*.

The *Creative Content Fund* which supports the development of projects in pre-production, witnessed a marked increase in take up throughout the year. 18 projects received funding support.

## Goal 3 - Continued Advocacy

NFDC recognizes the need to continue outreach activities with Nunavut's communities; to provide existing and potential content creators with a better understanding of our funding programs and to help in accessing those opportunities. However, our activities were severely curtailed by the enforced travel restrictions due to COVID-19.

The lack of internet bandwidth has been brought sharply into focus during the pandemic period with Nunavummiut becoming even more reliant on internet access than ever before. NFDC, in its advocacy for equitable bandwidth capacity throughout Nunavut, contracted Jean-Francois Bouchard, an expert in internet connectivity to prepare a study titled [Broadband's Impact on Nunavut's Screen-Based Industry](#). With funding from the Economic Development and Transportation, Bouchard mapped out the current environment and future trends of broadband in Nunavut for the next five years.

CEO attended the board meeting of the Arctic Indigenous Film Fund (AIFF) in June. The board agreed that it should start identifying projects to create a slate of projects before approaching potential funders.

The Association of Provincial and Territorial Film Agencies (APTFA) meetings were held throughout the year, most notably with the Indigenous Screen Office, Canada Media Fund, Telefilm Canada and the Canadian Media Producers Association (CMPA).

NFDC continued to develop working relationships and sharing expertise and best practices on a pan-territorial level (Nunavut, Yukon and NWT) to provide a unified voice to national matters. The territorial funding organizations submitted a CANNOR application to hold an annual summit over three years. It was decided that the application, penciled for the first summit to be held in the NWT in Feb/March 2021 should be delayed by a year to begin in 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions.

#### **Goal 4 - Content Distribution and Information Dissemination**

NFDC recognizes the need for the distribution of Inuktitut content on distribution platforms that are accessible to all Inuit wherever they live, and welcomed the launch of *Uvagut TV* in January, which is available throughout Canada on Shaw Satellite Direct, Arctic Co-op Cable (NU and NWT), FCNQ (Nunavik). NFDC also continues to monitor the progress of *Inuit TV* and *Taku.TV*.

By launching the Facebook page *Nunavujait*, NFDC aimed to promote the distribution capabilities of short form content on social media. *The Story Telling Fund* continues to support and promote the distribution capabilities of short form content on online platforms, be it videos or podcasts.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, NFDC did not pursue the planned strategy of encouraging community screenings by sending hard drives to communities. However, it has purchased hard drives to prepare viewing packages for future screenings.

Published every Monday, our bi-weekly posting of our email newsletter *Takkuu!* has increased the sharing of industry related news and support for screen-based artists during the COVID-19 outbreak.

#### **Goal 5 - Film Commission**

There is no specific funding for the Nunavut Film Commission and therefore has limited capacity to operate effectively.

In addition to providing regular counselling to territorial producers on an on-going basis, Nunavut Film also responds to a range of requests for information and advice from producers outside of the territory. Productions are asked to complete a Registration Form and always carry a copy of the Code of Conduct.

There were no guest productions in the territory during the first three quarters while the fourth quarter witnessed an increase in requests for information and advice from potential guest productions looking to visit Nunavut from the summer onward. Several small domestic productions have been active in 2021.

We have continued to maintain the website with up-to-date information, industry news and resources for production enquiries. Covid-19 resources are available to read on the front page of our website.

#### **Sample Requests Received:**

**Merit Motion Pictures** - Feasibility of filming polar bears in Rankin Inlet.

**Unreasonable Studios** - Seeking DOP and Drone Operator

**BBC Productions** - Permits.

**Authentique Productions** - Seeking 'special access' to film in Nunavut.

**Agooda Pictures** - Location scout for Pangnirtung.

**Wildspace Productions (UK)** - 'Ocean' Series - offering camera bursary opportunity.

**Septième Production (Montreal)** - Status on shooting in Nunavut.

**Amazing Factory Productions (Vancouver)** - Funding for co-producing with Nunavut company.

**Plimsoll Productions (UK)** - Nat Geo Natural History Series - Permits to film belugas.

**Artemis Karotseri-Vermuelen (Greece)** - Sea Voyage Documentary - Permits required and current restrictions.

**Wildstar Films (UK)** - Wildlife Documentary - Permits required and current restrictions.

**GrandBoy (Yukon)** - Irish Co-Production - Information on Nunavut Spend Incentive.

#### **Goal 6 - Training and Professional Development**

Nunavut FIT (Film Industry Training), in partnership with the Makigiaqta Training Corporation, offers a comprehensive training strategy which address a continuum of development from entry level training through to advanced training and professional development.

The implementation of the second year of Nunavut FIT's workshops was postponed due to the travel restrictions and the present contract was extended to reflect the loss of a year of activities.

Priority was given to promoting online training for filmmakers with a focus on programs that were available for free during COVID-19.

A Short Video Challenge was launched to support emerging Inuit filmmakers and The *Under the Midnight Sun* Video Boot Camp was held in Iqaluit between in July. These were evening workshops with students being taught how to shoot and edit under the guidance of instructors.

A pilot webinar was broadcast with Red Marrow Media's Alethea Arnaquq-Baril and Stacey Aglok MacDonald discussing Project Development. Further webinars were produced to be aired in the next fiscal year.

*AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*

Audited statements for the fiscal year ending March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 are available.