

**KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM INDIGENOUS WORKING GROUP MTG  
DECEMBER 6, 2017 – MID-YEAR CHECK IN**

- **Update from Telefilm on investment in Indigenous creators:** At the time of this mid-year check in, Telefilm has projected investments of well-over \$5 Million dollars in projects with Indigenous creators. This covers production and development. The marketing program remains open, so this amount may increase.
- **Annual report 2016:** Telefilm applauded the strong work of Indigenous creators that was highlighted in the most recent annual report. [See link to the report.](#) This report will be the last one in which Indigenous *content* will be tracked. Moving forward, Telefilm will identify, track and report on projects with Indigenous creators attached (according to the definition recommended and supported by this working group).
- **Concern expressed on new “fast pass”** into low budget production for 2<sup>nd</sup> feature. It was voiced that there are no recognized top-tier international Indigenous festivals on the scoring grid. To help facilitate access of Indigenous creators, can the American Indigenous Film Festival (San Francisco) be added? Action: Telefilm is already looking into this, and will seek to include this festival.
- **Concern on Development- mentorship envelopes:** Indigenous producers would like to mentor talent, however some find it a challenge on time, resources and identifying the talent to work with. It remains critical that established producers mentor and support emerging talent. The enhanced Microbudget program should hopefully provide greater visibility to emerging talent. Telefilm is open to hearing producers concerns. Producers are encouraged to speak to project financing and business affairs.
- **Hiring of Indigenous personnel:** Telefilm is committed to hiring Indigenous people – it is a priority. The search attempts have been ongoing since these conversations began about 18 months ago. The working group encourages Telefilm to continue its search for Indigenous talent. It is critical for Indigenous communities to see themselves within the walls of Telefilm. It was announced that an Indigenous person was hired as a coordinator at the Vancouver Telefilm

office. [Update This person has visited the Toronto office and received in-person training from staff and senior management. The individual also travelled to head office/Montreal to meet the rest of the business affairs team, and receive additional training.] Overall, three general areas of hiring challenges were discussed: more expansive outreach for new talent (which Telefilm is continuing to do); mentorship of new talent to increase capacity; support of talent once they are hired by Telefilm (as an example - see point above regarding the new hire).

- **New Jury Process:** to be in place by April 2018. imagineNATIVE is being hired to administer the jury. There will be a jury of 5. Jury requirements: regional representation; industry expertise; 75% of jurors to be Indigenous; conflict of interest and confidentiality protocols will be adhered to. A non-voting Telefilm representative will be present at the jury as a resource. The jury will make its recommendations to Project Financing. With this jury timeline in place, Telefilm will need to move up its deadline for submission to the Indigenous stream. Telefilm has prioritized having decisions issued to Indigenous creators by end of May. The working group asked that they be kept apprised of the jury process. Meetings have taken place with imagineNATIVE to finalize next steps.
- **Orientation workshops for Indigenous creators – Telefilm 101:** It was requested that Telefilm provide more orientation workshops about applying to Telefilm. New emerging Indigenous talent need to feel more welcomed. Telefilm agreed to address this and take action.
- **Trade Missions/more coproduction:** Concern expressed about finding new opportunities to be pursued for trade missions that will allow/empower Indigenous creators to find new coproduction partners. Telefilm has made it known to the CMPA and AQPM that all groups/funders need to better align their trade mission activities so that they're more impactful internationally. Possible trade missions can be suggested that can target Indigenous creators – Telefilm encouraged that this be discussed with producers' associations, and possibly the provinces.