

Canadian Independent Screen Fund
for BPOC creators



Fonds Canadien de l'écran
indépendant pour les créateurs
afro-descendants et racisés

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Canadian Independent Screen Fund for BPOC creators approved by CRTC as a Certified Independent Production Fund

The [Canadian Independent Screen Fund for BPOC creators \(CISF\)](#) is pleased to announce approval as a [Certified Independent Production Fund \(CIPF\)](#) by the CRTC. The BPOC-led fund is now eligible to receive contributions from broadcast distribution undertakings towards building a sustainable fund to support Canadian programming content. As the only CIPF with a mandate focusing on supporting Black and people of colour creators, CISF joins a long-standing [list of CIPFs](#) responsible for ensuring that a portion of the profits that broadcasters make by operating in Canada are invested back into supporting homegrown talent.

“CISF is especially pleased to be complimenting mainstream equity-based funding programs by addressing deeper systemic issues. Not only are we concerned with who is making the decisions about which projects get funded, but also about who is in control of designing those programs, how are they being delivered to our communities, and what kind of service and follow-through is taking place at every stage to ensure that BPOC storytellers and production companies are set up for long-term success in an incredibly tough industry where so many invisible barriers continue to be in place for creators who are Black and racialized. I look forward to working with broadcasters - and especially with C-11 on the horizon - other distribution and viewing platforms, to ensure that the content Canadian and global viewers alike enjoy on their screens authentically reflects the full spectrum of stories coming from one of the most racially diverse countries in the world.” - Sally Lee, CISF Executive Director

“Having worked in this industry for decades, I am delighted that this major step towards establishing CISF as a substantial and sustainable funding entity for BPOC creators comes during a time of growing appreciation of significant stories coming from BIPOC communities. Now, more than ever, it is important to pay attention not only to who is telling the stories, but also to who is making the decisions around funding. Black and Racialized filmmakers need a fund that is accessible, which speaks to their realities. As a “for us, by us” fund, CISF looks forward to playing an important role in bringing about lasting change that truly addresses the needs of Black and racialized creators in our screen-based industries.” -CISF Co-Chair Lalita Krishna

“The past two years have seen several watershed moments as we all actively engage in developing a more equitable industry. It is now widely acknowledged that Black and racialized voices are essential to Canadian culture and the projection of our values at home and abroad. As a dedicated Fund administered by and for BPOC media professionals, CISF is playing a crucial and unique role to ensure the strength and relevance of our screen-based industries now and for generations to come. The Fund’s status as a CIPF represents a huge milestone in our ongoing efforts for racial justice in Canada’s screen-based industries.” -CISF Co-Chair Jennifer Holness

About CISF:

The Canadian Independent Screen Fund for BPOC creators has a vision to establish a stable annual \$20 million fund that is run and managed by the BPOC community to fund Black and racialized creators working in the screen-based sector. It has been administering the Rogers-BSO Development Fund in partnership with the Rogers Group of Funds and the Black Screen Office since 2021.

CISF ran successfully as the CIFVF, an independent fund beloved by indie filmmakers from 1991 to 2008, when it was one of the many organizations that fell to the series of arts cuts taking place at that time. A group of board members continued to maintain the organization and its charitable status in the hope of reviving it at an opportune time. Following cross-country consultations with several sectoral organizations, the fund was revived in 2020 with a newly constituted board and a revised mandate to focus exclusively on the development and production of screen-based projects by Black and people of colour creators.

Representatives from BIPOC TV & Film, the Black Screen Office, Creatives Empowered, IMPACT, VAFF, Reelworld Film Festival, M.É.D.I.A, REMC, and independent producers from across Canada sit on the board and advisory of the CISF, which also operates in solidarity with the Indigenous Screen Office.

For more information please contact:

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