

THE NFB: A MAJOR HUB FOR CREATION AND INNOVATION

3 1 1 D A A B A N
FIRST LIGHT



1 The National Film Board of Canada (NFB) is one of the foremost creative centres in the world. As a public producer and distributor of Canadian content, an incubator for the finest talent, and a significant economic lever for Canada's creative sector, the NFB produces socially engaged documentaries, auteur animation and groundbreaking interactive and immersive works.

2 The NFB has one of the largest online collections of films (both classic and recent) and archival material in Canada. Curious minds can discover an array of experiences and new perspectives on a variety of topics affecting Canadians and global citizens.

3 The NFB has restored and digitized a substantial portion of the works in its collection, which contains more than 13,000 titles. They are gradually being added to the NFB's online collection, where Canadians can watch them free of charge.

4 NFB documentaries create dialogue and debate about issues at home and abroad, presenting original and compelling points of view that have often been marginalized.

5 The NFB's daring, innovative animated films continue the legacy of Norman McLaren—a long tradition of auteur filmmaking that's been kept alive by NFB creators using new techniques and technologies for their art.

6 The NFB's interactive and immersive works constantly explore unknown narrative territory, telling stories that harness the full potential of new technologies and platforms.

7 With its eight studios in eight cities, the NFB works closely with creators throughout Canada to convey their vision and capture the many realities of the country and its communities, from the East Coast to the West Coast, and from the Great Lakes to the Arctic. The NFB has studios in St. John's, Halifax, Moncton, Toronto, Winnipeg, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Montreal, where its headquarters is located.

8 The NFB has been an invaluable partner to elementary, secondary, and post-secondary schools for decades, providing the educational community with adapted and enhanced content that's innovative and timely. Today, 4.2 million students have access to the NFB's online educational portal, CAMPUS.

9 Works produced or co-produced at the NFB reach a wide audience at home and abroad. Whether in movie theatres or at festivals, on TV or in community venues, public libraries, and other public spaces, NFB works are widely accessible, in addition to being available on multiple online platforms.

10 The NFB has made firm and measurable commitments to achieve gender parity, support Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and foster diversity, equity and inclusion. These public and targeted commitments concern the organization both as an employer and as a producer and distributor. This plurality of voices is essential to Canada's current and future collective memory.

DID YOU KNOW...

The NFB will be
85 years old in 2024.

The NFB produces at least
one project
per week.

The NFB has won more than
7,000 awards,
including **12 Oscars®**,
4 Palmes d'Or, 25 Webby Awards, over
530 Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television
Awards, including 32 Canadian Screen Awards,
and 27 Québec Cinéma awards.

The first Canadian feature film selected to
screen in competition at the
Cannes Film Festival
was produced by the NFB: Pierre Perrault and
Michel Brault's *Pour la suite du monde*.

With
76 nominations,
the NFB has more Oscar® nominations than
any other organization outside of Hollywood.

The NFB supports independent filmmakers
through two programs—Aide au cinéma
indépendant du Canada (ACIC) and the
Filmmaker Assistance Program (FAP)—in
addition to encouraging emerging or developing
directors from all walks of life in Canada
through different initiatives, like the Hothouse
and Alambic programs for animation.

nfb.ca/onf.ca boasts more than 5,500 films
and interactive works available free of charge.
It was also the first bilingual online screening
room in the world.

The NFB has invented and pioneered major
animation technologies and techniques,
including stereoscopy and pixilation.

The NFB created one of the first-ever
computer-animated films in the world:
Peter Foldès's Oscar®-nominated *Hunger*.

The NFB won the first-ever Oscar® for best
documentary with Stuart Legg's *Churchill's Island*.

The foundations of Direct Cinema were developed
at the NFB in 1958 and expanded upon by
legendary documentarians like Michel Brault,
Pierre Perrault, Gilles Groulx, and Marcel Carrière.

"HOLLYWOOD" FACTS

- Every director selected to represent Canada at the Oscars® for Best Foreign Language Film has previously worked with the NFB.
- Canadian directors Guy Maddin, Denis Villeneuve, Atom Egoyan, Sarah Polley, Don McKellar, Sudz Sutherland, Denys Arcand, and Robert Lepage have all made a film with the NFB.
- The NFB has worked with the voice talents of actors Meryl Streep, Forest Whitaker, Christopher Plummer, Donald Sutherland, Leslie Nielsen, Richard Burton, Xavier Dolan, and Caroline Dhavernas.
- In 1967, the NFB helped pioneer technology at Expo 67 that would eventually become IMAX®.
- George Lucas was famously inspired to create "the Force" in *Star Wars* after watching Arthur Lipsett's *21-87*. There are two nods to this NFB film in the *Star Wars* series: Princess Leia's cell number in *A New Hope* and ex-Stormtrooper-turned-Rebel-hero Finn's First Order name, FN-2187.
- Roman Kroitor and Colin Low's NFB film *Universe* was a key source for Stanley Kubrick's vision of space in his masterpiece, *2001: A Space Odyssey*.





INDIGENOUS FILMMAKERS

- > The NFB has been working with Indigenous directors for close to 55 years.
- > Iconic Abenaki director Alanis Obomsawin has created 55 films in 55 years at the NFB.
- > In 2017, the NFB made a commitment to Indigenous equity and storytelling with its Indigenous Action Plan, acknowledging that past NFB films “contributed to a system of miseducation with devastating social impacts that have been well documented in the work of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission.”

- > The NFB has one of the largest online collections of Indigenous-directed films in the world. In 2018, it launched its Indigenous Cinema web page, which now features 440 free titles by Indigenous creators and about Indigenous Peoples, reaching over half a million viewings in 2021–2022.

- > The NFB has also adopted the Indigenous Materials Classification Schema—developed by pioneering Indigenous librarians—to catalogue this online film collection.

- > The position of Director of Indigenous Relations and Community Engagement was created in 2021–2022.

WOMEN AND THE NFB

- > Women have been directing films at the NFB for over 80 years.
- > Legendary NFB filmmaker Evelyn Lambart was the first female animation director in Canada.
- > In 1974, the NFB created an all-female-led production studio called Studio D. Women held every key creative and technical position within the studio, whose films would go on to win three Oscars®.
- > On the French production side, the NFB created the En tant que femmes program in 1972, where films were produced and directed by women, notably Anne Claire Poirier.
- > In 2016, the NFB made a commitment to achieving gender parity in its directing/technical positions and in its allocation of production funds.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

- > In February 2021, the NFB announced its diversity, equity and inclusion commitments, laid out in a plan that contains concrete goals and measures aimed at making significant and lasting changes in the organization, including recruitment, production and distribution methods.
- > The position of Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, was created within the framework of this plan.

NFB HEADQUARTERS, FROM OTTAWA TO MONTREAL

1939

NFB headquarters is founded in Ottawa at 25 John Street. The office was located in a converted lumber mill, built in the late 19th century, and in nine other buildings.

1956

NFB headquarters relocates to Montreal, to 3155 Côte-de-Liesse Road, which at the time was a brand-new, world-class, fully integrated motion-picture studio.

It was based on the Hollywood studio model and had several hundred employees (including musicians and carpenters) as well as film-development labs, camera equipment, sound stages, technical services, etc. It was also the only studio of its kind in Canada.

THE NFB AT ÎLOT BALMORAL

- > The NFB’s headquarters has been located in the heart of Montreal’s Quartier des Spectacles, at 1501 De Bleury Street, since fall 2019. You’ll be able to find everything the NFB is famous for under one roof and on six floors: studios, a theatre, workshops and spaces dedicated to ideation and production, and facilities to cover the full range of expert, technical and professional services related to the promotion and distribution of NFB projects.
- > In addition to the Alanis Obomsawin Theatre, at the NFB’s headquarters you’ll also find an area called the NFB Space. This space facilitates encounters between audiences and creators while highlighting the projects, achievements and expertise of the NFB and its artists.



2021–2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Globally, the NFB recorded

64 million views

of its productions and co-productions, including in theatres and public spaces and online.

Overall, NFB works were viewed

27 million times

in Canada, combining in-person, online and television viewings.

NFB productions and co-productions won

151 national and international awards.

87 films

benefited from the ACIC or the FAP.

The NFB received

Gold Parity

Certification from Women in Governance.

The NFB produced

43 original works,

 including 18 co-productions.

 54%

of works completed were directed by women.

 61%

of production spending went to works by women.

 35%

of works were directed by emerging filmmakers.

 26%

of completed works were directed by Indigenous filmmakers.

 16%

of production spending went to works by Indigenous creators.

 53%

of works completed explored topics related to Indigenous lives and experiences, and diverse perspectives related to race, ethnicity, religion, culture, disability, gender and sexuality.

 28%

of works completed were by creators from official-language minority communities.