



CBC/Radio-Canada Fact Sheet

CBC/Radio-Canada and the Canadian Documentary Film Industry

Distinctive, high-quality Canadian programming is the essence of CBC/Radio-Canada. As Canada's national public broadcaster, CBC/Radio-Canada is mandated to provide Canadians with a wide range of programs that inform, enlighten and entertain. Documentaries are an important element of the range of programming that CBC/Radio-Canada provides, and the Corporation is committed to the key role it plays in supporting, promoting and broadcasting Canadian documentary films.

Canadian Documentaries: Pride of place on CBC/Radio-Canada's airwaves

Documentaries have pride of place on CBC/Radio-Canada's airwaves – giving Canadian filmmakers a platform to showcase their talents and offer Canadians fresh perspectives on news, issues and events that audiences might not otherwise experience.

In 2000, Télévision de Radio-Canada committed to the CRTC to broadcast 18 original Canadian documentaries in primetime per year. Télévision de Radio-Canada has exceeded that commitment, broadcasting more than 20 documentaries per year. Since 2000, Télévision de Radio-Canada has broadcasted, in primetime, over one hundred original Canadian documentaries for a total of approximately 109.5 hours of Canadian documentary programming.

Since 2000, CBC Television and CBC Newsworld together have aired 778.5 hours (including repeat broadcasts) of Canadian documentary films - 81%

were produced by independent Canadian production companies.

RDI airs approximately 90 hours of independent Canadian documentaries each year.

CBC/Radio-Canada's commitment is clear in the range of programs it airs that are dedicated to showcasing documentary film. CBC Television has programs such as *The Passionate Eye* and *Rough Cuts*. *Caméra Témoin* airs on Télévision de Radio-Canada. Monday through Friday on *Grands Reportages*, RDI regularly broadcasts documentaries that have been co-produced with different Canadian production companies.

In addition, an in-house Integrated Documentary Unit commissions independent productions for documentary series and specials. This unit aggressively seeks out the best of Canadian and international productions to increase the broadcast of documentaries on both CBC Television and Télévision de Radio-Canada.

The Power of Partnership

Through partnerships with the National Film Board (NFB) of Canada, CBC/Radio-Canada acquires, broadcast and co-produces documentary films, helping to provide Canadian documentary films and filmmakers with a broader audience.

Since 2001, CBC Television and CBC Newsworld have acquired or co-produced approximately 98 documentaries from/with the NFB.

CBC/Radio-Canada also partners with the NFB on a number of initiatives to promote and distribute Canadian documentaries. For example:

- The Documentary Channel, a digital television station devoted to showcasing the best documentaries from Canada and around the world, contributes to the creation of a new generation of Canadian documentary filmmakers. With its emphasis on feature-length documentaries, the Documentary Channel brings award-winning documentaries to viewers seven days per week, 24 hours a day.
- The web site *Silence, on court!*, produced by the NFB in partnership with Radio-Canada is dedicated to the broadcast of francophone short films. 43 documentaries have been broadcast through this web site.
- CBC Television and CBC Newsworld are partners in the Reel Diversity Competition. Reel Diversity provides emerging directors from visible minority groups with a chance to direct their own English-language NFB documentary.
- Since 1994, regional Télévision de Radio-Canada has maintained a global agreement with the NFB, aimed at contributing to the development and broadcast of regional productions, mostly documentaries.

CBC Television has partnered with Newfoundland's Memorial University to pilot a documentary film course during the summers of 2002-2003. That course has been added to the university's diploma program and will continue to exist as a summer course.

Télévision de Radio-Canada is a partner in the annual Rencontres internationales du documentaire de Montréal, a documentary showcase that provides a platform for dialogue between the public and filmmakers and producers worldwide. Radio-Canada also meets regularly with representatives from l'Observatoire du documentaire to discuss the state of documentary film production in the French market as well as Radio-Canada's objectives in this regard.

CBC Television sponsors the Hot Docs Canadian International Festival, North America's largest documentary festival. Each year, the festival presents a selection of over 100 cutting-edge documentaries from Canada and around the globe.

The Road Ahead

While the audience for Canadian documentary films remains strong and stable, adequate funding remains one of the greatest challenges for filmmakers and broadcasters.

The growth of Canadian specialty services has created a greater demand for documentary productions; however, the volume of hours required by specialty television services has limited the amount of funding the Canadian Television Fund and Telefilm Canada can spend on individual documentary projects.

Though an important element of our programming strategies, documentaries represent only one category of programming competing for the resources available to CBC/Radio-Canada.