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\$10,000 Pitch Contest Returns for Underrepresented Nova Scotian Filmmakers at Lunenburg Doc Fest

[Lunenburg, N.S.] — Lunenburg Doc Fest is now accepting applications from underrepresented Nova Scotian filmmakers for The Launch 2024: Documentary Pitch Contest, now in its third year.

Five selected filmmakers will pitch their documentary ideas live at the 11th Lunenburg Doc Fest (Sept. 18-22, 2024). In addition to two professional pitch workshops before the contest, the five finalists will receive a full-access pass to Lunenburg Doc Fest 2024. This complimentary pass includes access to the Dock Market conference, where the finalists will receive further professional development and opportunities for one-to-one meetings with peers, industry stakeholders, and guest decision-makers.

The Launch offers underrepresented Nova Scotian media artists the chance to win one of three prize packages to create a short documentary over the next year. Over \$10,000 in cash and in-kind filmmaking services will be awarded: first place receives \$3,000 plus services, second place receives \$2,000 plus services, and third place receives \$1,000 plus services.

“First steps are hard. We are happy to help expand the filmmaking community by providing mentorship, visibility and production support prizes to a talented and underrepresented group of aspiring storytellers,” said Bruce MacCormack, Chairperson of Lunenburg Doc Fest.

The pitch contest will take place at Lunenburg Doc Fest on September 20, 2024 before a live audience and a screen industry panel. The winners will be announced that evening.

Underrepresented emerging to mid-career filmmakers in Nova Scotia who identify as Indigenous, Black, and/or Persons of Colour (IBPOC), persons with a disability, persons who are part of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and other individuals who identify as underrepresented are encouraged to apply. There are no costs to apply or participate in The

Launch program thanks to the financial support of the Canada Media Fund.

For more information and to apply, visit <https://lunenburgdocfest.com/industry/the-launch/>. The application deadline is **August 8, 2024 at 11:59 PM (AT)**. Successful applicants will be notified by **August 12, 2024**.

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Lunenburg Doc Fest's mission is to entertain, educate, and inspire by showcasing the documentary art form and creating a cultural connection between audiences and artists in the UNESCO World Heritage site of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

The Launch 2024 is funded by the Canada Media Fund, CBC, the Canada Arts Presentation Fund, and the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage. In-kind support for The Launch 2024 is provided by the Atlantic Filmmakers Cooperative (AFCOOP), the Centre for Art Tapes (CFAT), Sunbelt Rentals Film & TV, the Documentary Organization of Canada, and 902 Post Inc., and Village Works Content Co.

For media interviews or more information, please contact:

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