

FilmPEI President's Report 2020-21

The 2020-21 fiscal year was dominated by the COVID disruption. And the film community came through surprisingly unscathed. A lot of activities moved online and this ended up creating a fair amount of work for our members. FilmPEI also benefited from several government COVID support programs. As you will see in the financial report, this left the organization in surprisingly good shape at the end of the year. COVID supports have continued to flow this year, allowing us to increase our staffing. A challenge for the board this year will be to figure out how to continue our growth path once the COVID funds stop flowing.

A huge development for the film community in 2020-21 was the Prince Edward Island Film Production Fund that came into effect April 1st this year. This is thanks to an amazing collaboration between FilmPEI, InnovationPEI's Cultural Development Division, Minister of Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture, Matthew MacKay and individual members of PEI's film community. After years of hard work we now have in place a competitive provincial all-spend rebate of 32-35%.

This year, we are already seeing increased activity in the film industry. Growth is poised to explode next year not only with our own productions but also from off-Island productions that are looking for a fresh, exciting, safe and cost-effective place to make their shows. Hold onto your hats and don't forget to sign up for our excellent industry training programs!

FilmPEI is already feeling the pressure from activity stimulated by the Production Fund both in terms of infrastructure and staffing. The board needs to work with staff to put a firm foundation under the organization to allow it to operate at a scale we could hardly have imagined a few years ago. The board is currently working on a three-year plan for FilmPEI to accomplish this.

Huge thanks to the board members who served in 2020-21 under very challenging circumstances. I can tell you that they never lost sight of your interests as filmmakers - whether you are an experimental video artist, produce corporate videos, work above the line or below the line. Whether you are emerging or mid-career, they are doing everything they can to help you succeed.

- Mark Sandiford (president)
- Berni Wood (vice-president)
- Tina Yu (treasurer)
- Mille Clarkes (secretary)
- Karen Mair
- Richard Schroeter
- Jessie Duarte
- Sean Doke
- Daniel Oheagbu
- Sparrow McGowan
- Iain McCarvill