# Groundbreaking Documentaries

**Building an Engaged Citizenry that Understands the World** 

Proposal for David Holgate August 2016



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# The New Landscape

In today's world of political, economic, and environmental upheaval, there has never been a greater need for an informed populace.

Media content has become increasingly brief and digestible, while in-depth and thoughtful content has become increasingly scarce.

TVO believes documentary filmmaking has never been more important. There is a need and an appetite for the work that TVO delivers.



Manufactured Landscapes (2006)

## TVO's Unique Position

**TVO shares stories that need to be heard.** They're the kind of stories that transform society and help us to better understand the world. They illuminate complex issues, challenge thinking, and tell otherwise unheard stories.

**TVO content is freely accessible on-air and online.** Our documentaries showcase some of the best talent in Canadian filmmaking, all streaming free at tvo.org.

**TVO sets itself apart as a leader in digital innovation.** We support the development of apps and websites to accompany our films, enhancing the experience, making the films interactive, and taking viewers beyond the screen.



The Polar Sea (2014)

### Our National Art Form

Through documentaries, we are exposed to one of the most honest – and Canadian – of cultural art forms. The first official documentary ever made was *Nanook of the North* in 1922, about the life of the Canadian Inuit. The term "documentary" was coined by John Grierson, founder of the National Film Board of Canada in 1939. For more than 75 years since, Canada has been a leader in telling real-life stories that challenge our outlook on the world and stimulate curiosity, understanding, outrage, and compassion.

As a filmmaker, you share our passion for this Canadian tradition.



### Fuelling the Fire

Documentary filmmaking is a labour of love. It comes from a place deep inside the filmmaker, where the burning need to tell a story forges a vision.

However, you cannot produce a film on passion alone. Documentaries are an expensive undertaking. Most filmmakers are not able to produce a film without substantial financial support.

TVO is in a position to help filmmakers shape their dreams into reality. We are especially proud to give first-time filmmakers the chance to realize their vision. For these new talents, it is particularly difficult to find investors. TVO's Executive Producer of Documentaries Jane Jankovic explains: "Taking on a new filmmaker is a lot of work and a lot of risk. I totally understand why broadcasters don't do it. But sometimes you just have to go for it."

TVO has taken chances and supported first-time filmmakers, like Jennifer Baichwal and Alan Zweig, who are now among Canada's most reputable, sought-after, and award-winning documentary directors. Past projects from emerging filmmakers proudly supported by TVO:

Forgetful Not Forgotten (2009) The Market (2010) A Sorry State (2012) The Manor (2013) Chubby Chaser (2013) David & Me (2014) Mugshot (2014) The Drop: Why Young People Don't Vote (2015) The Beat Goes On (2016)





Forgetful Not Forgotten (2009)





The Market (2010)





A Sorry State (2012)

The Manor (2013)



The Drop: Why Young People Don't Vote (2015)

The Beat Goes On (2016)

Chubby Chaser (2013)

Upcoming TVO projects from emerging filmmakers:

• Latkas, Ladoos and Laughs (In Production)

• A Better Man (In Production)

 Chasing Mayhem (In Production)

• The First 150 (In Production)

 Much Too Young (In Production)

# TVO's Impact

The stories we tell inspire, challenge, and change lives:

- David & Me (2014) helped free David McCallum after 30 years of wrongful incarceration
- Polar Sea (2014) used revolutionary 360 degree cameras to create an immersive experience, making the effects of climate change immediate and tangible
- Sugar Coated (2015) pulled back the curtain on the sugar industry's use of tobacco-style tactics to dismiss health critics

- Out of Mind, Out of Sight (2014) gave unprecedented access to a forensic psychiatric hospital to show the journey of patients struggling to gain control over their lives once again
- Where the Universe Sings (2016) explored the life and landscapes of Lawren Harris to reconnect Canadians to one of our greatest artists

We are creating real change - real impact - with documentaries. Your support will be the fire behind that impact.



"I believe that documentaries have the power to change the way we think, feel, and see the world."

– Jane Jankovic, TVO Executive Producer of Documentaries

# TVO's Reality

With government funding under increasing pressure, TVO must increasingly rely on the generosity of individual donors. Particularly in these difficult times, we rely on this support to ensure our financial sustainability.

TVO needs diversified resources to help Ontarians access powerful learning opportunities so they can excel in a rapidly changing world.

We must build philanthropic partnerships with individuals like you. Individuals who share our vision of an Ontario where lives are transformed by the power of learning through film.



### Your Philanthropic Leadership

We are inspired by individuals like you who give generously, and often at great personal sacrifice, to ensure the world becomes a better place. We live in an exciting time where philanthropy can provide innovative approaches and redefine what is possible. Your philanthropic leadership will transform our ability to directly benefit society.

It costs TVO \$2 million a year to fund our documentary programming. Your gift will act as a seed fund for special projects that otherwise will never be made.

With a seed fund, we will use your gift to create a matching campaign, asking our 30,000+ donors to also support the Documentary Fund, potentially doubling your gift's impact. From there, we can trigger funding from our existing production partners – TVO's reputation in documentary filmmaking means that when we champion a project, our partners eagerly cover up to 79% of the cost. **This multiplies your gift's impact an additional 5 times.** 

In effect, this means your gift to the TVO Documentary Fund could have 10 times the impact: a \$1 million gift becomes \$10 million in documentaries.





### The Way Forward

Ontarians reach their highest potential when they are curious, analytical, and willing to discuss issues that matter to them. TVO champions authentic voices and believes that documentaries create civic-minded people who better understand the world.

With your support, TVO will be able to fund projects on important issues that open discussions and give voice to even more perspectives.

Together the possibilities are great. Together we can create real change in the world.



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# Thank you

Thank you on behalf of TVO's Board of Directors, Executive Management, staff, and the millions of Ontarians who will benefit from your support. Together we can create a better world through documentary film and the power of learning.



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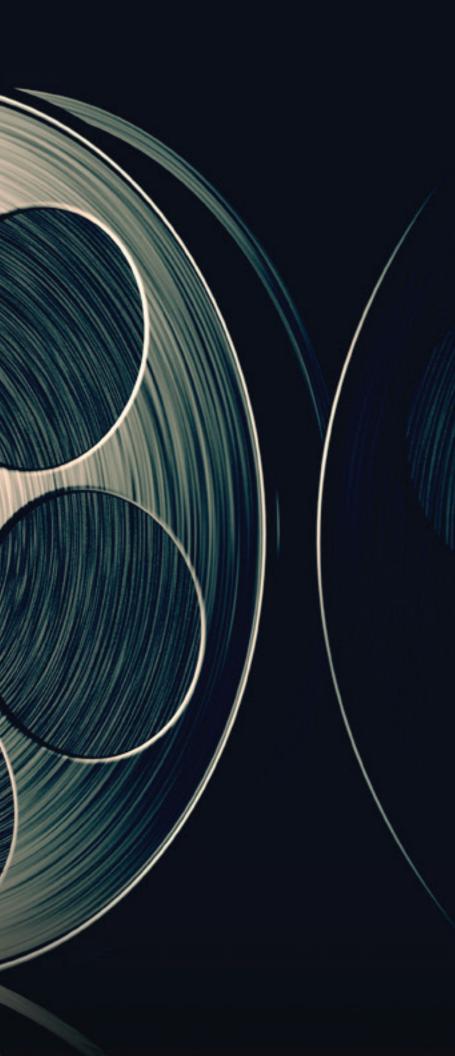
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## **T**VO Never stop learning



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