

The cancellation of *The Lens* is a disaster for independent documentary filmmakers ([CBC-TV Cancels The Lens Doc Series](#) - Review, July 20). In the past 12 months, documentary filmmakers have been dealt a succession of blows, starting with the cancellation of the Canadian Independent Film and Video Fund, CTV closing its independent documentary unit, the cloud of uncertainty revolving around the Canadian Media Fund and now the cancellation of *The Lens*. Furthermore, there has been no indication from the CBC that it will replace those 12 commissions on other strands or channels.

Aside from the economic impact to our industry, this will have a negative cultural impact. *The Lens* was an important venue for diverse voices and points of view.

We understand that the CBC is under enormous financial pressure at the moment, but the Documentary Organization of Canada believes that public broadcasters in the 21st century need to increase support for diversity, as opposed to shunning it in favour of an industrial model.

We hope that the CBC will reconsider its decision, or replace the loss strand with a new and improved strand for documentaries representing diverse voices and points of view.

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