## Message from the Interim Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada (236 words)

We could not be more excited to come back to the festival circuit to celebrate the artistry of film and showcase Canadian creatives around the world and at home. That is why we are proud to support the 29<sup>th</sup> Rendez-vous French Film Festival!

Over the last year, Canadian talent have worked hard to tell their stories in innovative and creative ways that show the world that Canada is a thriving audiovisual hub. We are so proud of all our francophone creators and excited to welcome them back to cinemas at festivals like this, where their work can be shown in front of audiences of film-lovers. We are grateful to the Government of Canada for the Reopening Funds which provided additional funding to film festivals across the country.

At Telefilm, our mission is to elevate storytelling. It is to support Canadians of all backgrounds, especially underrepresented communities that deserve to be able to tell their own stories. Right now, our priority is to reflect the diversity of our country on screen and bring representation to the forefront of our initiatives and programs.

We want to thank and congratulate the Rendez-vous French Film Festival for its continued support of French films and for fostering the return to cinemas so we can all celebrate these talents from around the world in theatres once again.

And remember, keep supporting Canadian talent in theatres and online whenever you can!

Francesca Accinelli

Interim Executive Director and CEO, Telefilm Canada