

**PEOPLE
FIRST
OF CANADA**



**PERSONNES
D'ABORD
DU CANADA**

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November 1st, 2023

Koskie Minsky LLP
20 Queen St W
Toronto, ON M5H 3R3
Re: MDC Audiovisual Proposal

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

Enclosed, please find the funding proposal on behalf of People First of Canada (PFC) for the MDC Storytelling Initiative. PFC is the national organization representing people labelled with an intellectual or developmental disability. We are unique in that we are the only national organization that is 100% led by people with lived experience. In the spirit of 'nothing about us without us', we speak for ourselves and those whose voices cannot be heard. Our vision is a Canada that values diversity and honors, respects, and includes all its citizens.

This project aims to document the important history of institutionalization in Manitoba up to and including the closure of the Manitoba Developmental Centre and the class action lawsuit against the Manitoba Government. This will be done in the form of a documentary and used to provide education for future learnings. We see this documentary being utilized by many different sectors: the academic/ education system, the judicial system, and disability sector, just to name a few. This documentary will be a clear and constant reminder to ensure institutionalization never happens again to Manitobans with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

We invite you to watch our trailer, please click [here](#). Although we have made substantial progress thus far, the project's scope has significantly expanded, especially in light of critical developments like the lawsuit settlement and the apology from former Premier Stefanson. Consequently, we respectfully request \$50,000 in funding from the MDC Storytelling Initiative to bridge this critical funding gap.

We appreciate your consideration of this request. Should you require further information, please contact the Project Lead, Mr. Branden DeFoort or our Executive Director, Shelley Fletcher.

Sincerely,

Dewlyn Lobo

Dewlyn Lobo
President

cc: Branden DeFoort
Shelley Fletcher

A PEOPLE FIRST OF CANADA PRODUCTION
COMING IN 2024

THESE FOUR WALLS



Literally, "these four walls" refers to the physical structure of a room or building, such as a home, shelter or prison.

Metaphorically, it is used to represent confinement, limitation, or being trapped in a specific place or situation, both physically and emotionally.



SYNOPSIS

These Four Walls invites you on an emotional journey deep into the heart of the disability movement in Manitoba, Canada. At its core is the remarkable story of David Weremy and his class action lawsuit against the Manitoba Development Centre (MDC), revealing shocking allegations of widespread abuse and neglect under government care.

The film traces the paths of survivors from the institution, alongside dedicated community advocates and families, as they confront the painful scars of abuse concealed behind its walls. Through intimate interviews and compelling storytelling, we witness the resilience and determination of survivors and their communities.

An inspiring tale of hope, community, and the power of breaking free from confinement, the film champions the boundless possibilities that await beyond 'these four walls.' Prepare to be moved, inspired, and forever changed by this powerful exploration of the human spirit.





THE PROJECT

The disability movement in Manitoba is in the midst of making history. In October 2018, Koskie Minsky LLP initiated a class-action lawsuit on behalf of survivors who were placed at the Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC). David Weremy has been appointed as the lead plaintiff in this case. This lawsuit is directed against the Province of Manitoba, alleging wrongful treatment of those who resided at the MDC. David claims that he and others endured widespread abuse while under the care of the MDC.

The class-action lawsuit coincides with the province's early 2021 announcement of the closure of the MDC. At the time of the announcement, the province shared a three-year plan with the goal of transitioning 133 people from the institutionalized congregate living arrangement to a more inclusive community setting.

As part of this initiative, People First of Canada will produce a documentary to capture these historic moments as they unfold. The film will centre around survivors to raise awareness about disability issues and the process of deinstitutionalization.

CONCEPT TRAILER

Feel free to view the concept trailer to get a glimpse of our project's direction. Please be aware that this trailer is not currently available to the public. **We are actively seeking additional funding to complete the documentary. The project is made possible through grants, and its scope has grown significantly in light of pivotal events, such as the settlement of the lawsuit and the apology from former Premier Stefanson.** [Click here to watch.](#)



ACT I

THE RISE OF INSTITUTIONS



Bob Jones

Disability Consultant

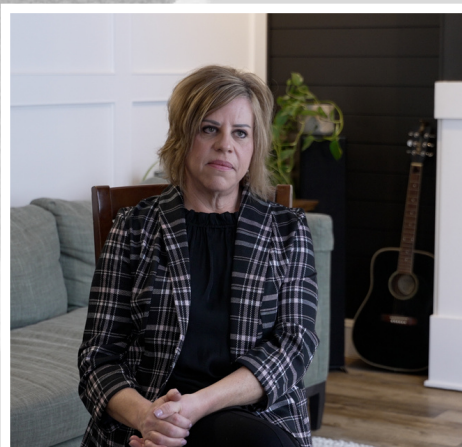
Bob guides viewers through the emergence of institutions while delving into complex ideas like eugenics and the medical model.



Mary Horodyski

Archivist

Mary discusses how the geographic location of institutions forced people to leave their homes, often resulting in the loss of culture and family.



Shelley Fletcher

Executive Director of People First of Canada

Shelley highlights how professionals once advised families that institutions were the best option for their loved ones.

ACT II

INSIDE THE INSTITUTION..

Michael Filbert
Survivor



Kerry Besel
Survivor



Liz Friessen
Survivor



Deb Roach
Family Member



**"For 18 years I lived there,
bad things happened..."**

**-David Weremy,
Lead Plaintiff and Survivor**

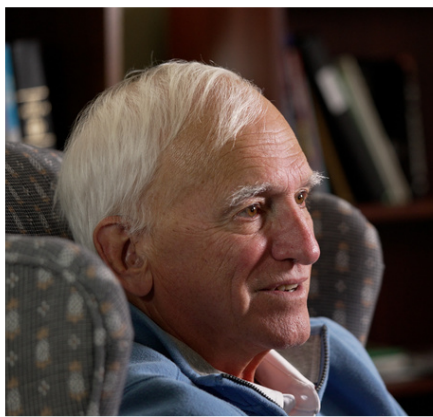
ACT III SHUT IT DOWN!



Janet Forbes

Executive Director of Inclusion Winnipeg

Janet challenges the definition of an institution and envisions a path towards genuine inclusion.



Dale Kendel

Retired Executive Director of Community Living Manitoba

Dale, as the historical expert, guides us through the series of events that played a crucial role in the closure of the Manitoba Developmental Centre.



Dr. Laverne Jacobs

United Nations CRPD Representative and Law Professor

Dr. Jacobs explains the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, focusing on Article 19, which emphasizes the right to live in community.

TIMELINE COVERED

1890 – Home for Incurables opens

19th to mid 20th century – Eugenics movement

1924 – Name changed to Home for the Aged and Infirm

1930 – Name changed to Manitoba School for Mental Defectives

1967 – Name changed to Manitoba School for Retardates

1960's to 1970's – Joyce Gibbon's death

1973 – Pelican Lake Training Centre opens to address overcrowded conditions

1970's and 80's – Development of community options

1979 – The inaugural Manitoba Marathon

1977 – Fire resulting in death 8 people

1982 – Welcome Home project. Over 200 people freed.

1984 – Name changed to Manitoba Developmental Centre

1986 – Ombudsman investigates MDC

2000 – Pelican Lake Training Centre closes

2004 – Manitoba announces \$40 million dollar investment to renovate MDC

2006 – Community Living Manitoba files human rights complaint

2008 – Freedom Tour is released.

2011 – Community Living Manitoba wins human rights complaint. 50 people were freed from the institution.

2018 – David Weremy sues the government in a 50-million-dollar class action lawsuit.

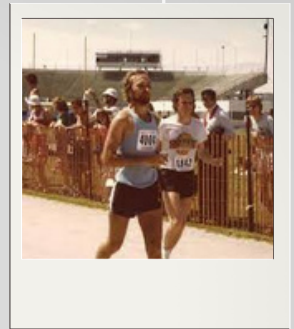
2021 – Minister Squires announces the proposed plan to close MDC by March 2024

2023 – Class action lawsuit settled for \$17 million dollars.

2023 – Premier Heather Stefanson's formal apology

2024 – MDC scheduled to close

[Click here for a draft of name change graphic \(note: no music\)](#)



RESEARCH

Multimedia Research

- Freedom Tour documentary
- **“The Residents”** (1977 CBC documentary)
- Unloved: Huronia’s Forgotten Children
- The Sterilization of Leilani Muir
- The Truths of Institutions – Past and Present
- Invisible Institutions Podcast
- News coverage of various events (both print and film)

Government Record Review

- The Manitoba School Journals
- Annual Reports
- Inquest Reports
- Ombudsman Reports
- FIPPA Requests to access more restricted information such as blueprints of the institution

Academic Literature Review

- Mary Hordyski: *“Society seems like it doesn’t even know...”*
- Josee Boulanger: *Look, Listen, Learn: Collaborative Video Storytelling By/With People Who Have Been Labelled with an Intellectual Disability*
- Other Peer-Reviewed Journals



WHO WE ARE

PEOPLE FIRST OF CANADA, PRODUCER

People First of Canada is the national organization representing people with an intellectual or developmental disability. People First of Canada is member led, and envisions a Canada that values diversity and honors, respects, and includes all its citizens.

We support each other to reclaim our right to be recognized as full citizens. We do this through peer support, sharing our personal stories, developing leadership skills, advocating for our right to choose where and with whom we live, and by making sure that our voices are heard and respected. We work together to educate and influence communities and government to ensure that all persons with intellectual disabilities are fully included and supported to live as equal citizens in Canada.

People First of Canada and Inclusion Canada created the National Joint Task Force on Deinstitutionalization because many people with an intellectual or developmental disability remain in institutions – segregated, isolated, and often without their full citizenship rights. The Task Force works to raise awareness of institutions and the conditions in which our fellow Canadians live within these facilities.

With this in mind, People First of Canada previously worked in partnership with the National Film Board and produced *The Freedom Tour*. This is a documentary that portrays compelling stories told by survivors of institutions who had moved into communities across the Prairies. The documentary is more than 10 years old, and an updated documentary is required to continue highlighting the work of deinstitutionalization in Manitoba.

[Please visit our website for more information.](#)



WHO WE ARE

**Joey Forte (Brannek Films),
Director of Photographer and Editor**

Having a passion for video and filmmaking since a young age, Joey turned a beloved hobby into a career after establishing Brannek Video Productions in 1998 and has been producing freelance video projects ever since. Over the past several years, Joey has been collaborating with non-profit organizations to get their messages heard through engaging films. Joey is excited to leverage his expertise in visual storytelling to capture people's experiences and create a high-quality documentary. [Visit Joey's website here.](#)



**Branden DeFoort,
Project Lead**

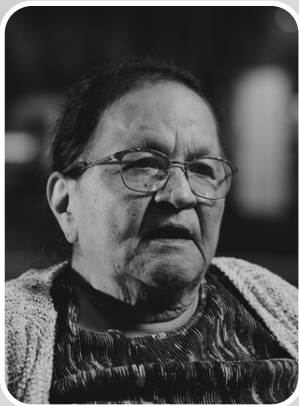
Branden has worked in the disability sector in various roles for the past decade. Branden's work is rooted in the foundational belief that all people are equal. He is passionate about empowering people to live lives of their own design and advocating for the removal of barriers that prevent people from stepping into their role as full citizens. Branden has been an Advisor with the People First movement for 8 years. Branden is eager to embark on this new journey of documenting and amplifying people's narratives.



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Nothing about us without us

Just like everything done by People First of Canada, the direction and leadership of the documentary is guided by people labeled with an intellectual disability.



Liz Friessen

Survivor



Valerie Wolbert

*President,
People First of Manitoba*



David Weremy

*Lead Plaintiff & Survivor,
Weremy v. Manitoba*



Yvonne Spicer

*Committee Member,
Deinstitutionalization
Task Force*



Chris Rowley

*Second Vice President,
People First of Canada*



Jant Forbes

*National Advisor,
People First of Canada*

BUDGET OVERVIEW

We have successfully raised \$75,000 for our documentary project, but in order to fulfill our mission of amplifying survivors' stories and successfully complete production, we require an additional \$50,000, bringing our total budget to \$125,000. Our project has significantly expanded in scope, especially in light of pivotal events like the lawsuit settlement and the apology from former Premier Stefanson. As a result, **we kindly request \$50,000 in funding from the MDC Storytelling Initiative** to bridge this crucial funding gap

40K

PRODUCTION

- Full feature documentary
- Inclusive recruitment
- Countless hours of research
- 12+ interviews, aerial footage, and supplementary footage

34K

POST PRODUCTION

- 1000+ hours of work
- An accessible film with captioning
- Graphics and animation to elevate final production

10K

EQUIPMENT

- Professional, film grade equipment

41K

OTHER EXPENSES

- Travel and local expenses
- Honorariums
- Stock footage and music
- Administrative costs and fund for a premiere

125K

PRODUCTION BUDGET

***The Budget Overview includes rounded numbers. Review the Budget Sheet below for a more detailed and accurate summary.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Description	Qty	Unit	Price	Total Cost (\$)
Production				\$39,450.00
*Director/Producer	1	flat	\$0.00	\$0.00
*Associate Producer/Researcher	1	flat	\$0.00	\$0.00
Director of Photography/Camera/Lighting	15	full day	\$750.00	\$11,250.00
Sound Recordist	15	full day	\$350.00	\$5,250.00
Production Assistant	15	full day	\$200.00	\$3,000.00
Production Consultant	160	hour	\$25.00	\$4,000.00
Aerial Footage	1.5	full day	\$1,200.00	\$1,800.00
Narrator	6	hour	\$25.00	\$150.00
B-Roll	10	full day	\$750.00	\$7,500.00
Re-enactment Footage	1	allow	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00

Description	Qty	Unit	Price	Total Cost (\$)
Post-Production				\$34,145.00
Editor				
Assembly, Sound Mixing, Colour Grading	45	full day	\$450.00	\$20,250.00
Transcription	90	per min.	\$3.00	\$270.00
Subtitle/Caption Editing	1	full day	\$325.00	\$325.00
Described Video	1	allow	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
French Translation & Captioning	1	allow	\$2,300.00	\$2,300.00
Graphics and Animation	1	allow	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00

Equipment (Included with Director of Photography)				\$4,000.00
Camera				
Sony FX3 4K Package with 4 Lenses	2	each	\$0.00	\$0.00
Atmos Ninja Field Monitor/Recorder	1	each	\$0.00	\$0.00
NP-100 Batteries	10	each	\$0.00	\$0.00
NP-970 Batteries	4	each	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tripod, Monopod, (Manfrotto)	3	each	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lighting				
Neewer 660 LCD 3-Point Kit with 2 Softboxes	1	each	\$0.00	\$0.00
LCD Light Panels, General	2	each	\$0.00	\$0.00
Adobe Premiere Pro Editing System & Software	1	each	\$0.00	\$0.00
Audio Interface & Monitor Speakers	1	each	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mastering Display Monitor	1	each	\$0.00	\$0.00
2.5" SSD Media Storage	4	each	\$600.00	\$2,400.00
WD Hard Drive 14TB	4	each	\$400.00	\$1,600.00

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Description	Qty	Unit	Price	Total Cost (\$)
Equipment Rental				\$6,255.00
Sony A7SIII Includes (2) 160 GB CF Express Type A Cards with Type A Reader	3	per week	\$850.00	\$2,550.00
Additional 160GB CF Express Type A Cards x 2 units	3	per week	\$450.00	\$1,350.00
Atmos 19" Monitor	3	per week	\$500.00	\$1,500.00
Large Flag Kit	3	per week	\$120.00	\$360.00
40" C-Stand with Grip Arm x 4 units	3	per week	\$165.00	\$495.00

Description	Qty	Unit	Price	Total Cost (\$)
Travel & Local Expenses				\$4,150.00
Meals (for interviewees and production staff)	1	allow	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Mileage	1000	km	\$0.45	\$450.00
Travel to Toronto and Windsor for Interviews	1	allow	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00

Description	Qty	Unit	Price	Total Cost (\$)
Stock Footage, Music & Archival Stills				\$27,500.00
Stock Photos & Footage	1	allow	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Footage Licensing (The Residents) In Perpetuity and Broadcasting	1	allow	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Music Licensing In Perpetuity and Broadcasting	1	allow	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00

Description	Qty	Unit	Price	Total Cost (\$)
Professional Services				\$9,500.00
Honorarium for Interviewees and Steering Committee	1	allow	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Accounting, Bank Services, & Administrative Costs	1	allow	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Budget for local premiere	1	allow	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00

REFERENCES

Given Brannek Films is the Director of Photography and Editor, the following references are for them:

Leanne Fenez

Quality Lead, Abilities Manitoba

204.791.9319

leanne@abilitiesmanitoba.org

Dr. Catherine Chatterley

Founding Director, Canadian Institute for the Study of Antisemitism

204.291.8466

catherine.chatterley@icloud.com

Tim Riedel

Producer/Director, Turnbuckle Creative

647.703.6454

captaintimmer@gmail.com