

## **MICHÈLE MAHEUX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER ASSUMES NEW ROLE AND ANNOUNCES DEPARTURE FROM TIFF FOR SUMMER 2019**



**TORONTO** — Today, on behalf of the TIFF Board of Directors, Jennifer Tory, Chair, announced that longstanding Executive Director & Chief Operating Officer Michèle Maheux will retire from the organization in summer 2019. Prior to her departure next year, Maheux will play a key role in ensuring a smooth leadership transition as Cameron Bailey takes on the extended role of Artistic Director & Co-Head alongside an incoming Executive Director & Co-Head.

Maheux has been with TIFF for 30 years, and has been an integral part of the organization's growth and international success, including the realization, launch and operations of TIFF Bell Lightbox. A veteran communicator and strategic planner, Maheux has mentored and inspired thousands of staff and volunteers over the years who have helped to shape the organization into one of the most respected cultural institutions in the world.

TIFF is a charitable organization with a mission to transform the way people see the world through film.



"During my time with the TIFF Board, I have had the privilege to see Michèle's meticulous business acumen and people skills up close," said Jennifer Tory. "She is the epitome of a generous mentor and strong leader and through her hard work has helped to build one of the finest arts organizations in the world. We are most fortunate she has agreed to stay on to assist in transitioning TIFF's new leadership team."

"Michèle has been my longtime advisor, confidante and friend," said Piers Handling, Director and CEO. "She is the engine that has kept TIFF running for decades, and her passion and dedication to film, the arts, and most importantly, the staff, is second to none. We have been in the trenches together for a lifetime and there are no words to express how grateful I am for all her years of support, laughter and impeccable work."

"I'm excited for the future of TIFF and the new team at the top," said Maheux. "The organization is on a great path with a new five-year Strategic Plan and a team passionate about the mission and vision. I am honoured to play a role in the organization's upcoming transition."

Maheux will continue in her current role until November 1, 2018, at which point she will focus on organizational effectiveness and transition, reporting directly to the Board until summer 2019. The appointment of the incoming Executive Director & Co-Head will be announced prior to this year's Festival.

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#### **About TIFF**

TIFF is a charitable cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world through film. An international leader in film culture, TIFF projects include the annual Toronto International Film Festival in September; TIFF Bell Lightbox, which features five cinemas, major exhibitions, and learning and entertainment facilities; and innovative national distribution program Film Circuit. The organization generates an annual economic impact of \$189 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by contributors including Founding Sponsor Bell, the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, the City of Toronto, the Reitman family (Ivan Reitman, Agi Mandel and Susan Michaels), The Daniels Corporation and RBC. For more information, visit [tiff.net](http://tiff.net).

**TIFF is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L'Oréal Paris, and Visa, and Major Supporters the Government of Canada, the Government of Ontario, and the City of Toronto.**

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