



Call for Submissions

The Lost Stories Project 2017 Edition Documentary Film to Mark 150 Years of Canada

The Lepers of Sheldrake Island, New Brunswick

Deadline: 23 January 2017

Backstory

The Lost Stories Project collects little-known stories about the Canadian past, transforms them into works of public art on appropriate sites, and documents the process through a series of short films available in English, French and other appropriate languages. Based at Concordia University and led by Concordia historian Ronald Rudin, in collaboration with professors from other universities and artists working in various media, the project has received support from the Canadian government's Canada 150 fund to develop four new episodes for 2017.

Each of these episodes is built around a story chosen from those submitted by the public. In each case, a story will be paired with an artist who will have the task of interpreting it to create a permanent public artwork to be located on a site related to that story. The artist's creative process will figure prominently in the documentary films that we will be producing.

We welcome submissions from filmmakers who would be able -- in a roughly twenty-minute documentary -- to weave together the story from the past and the story of the artist sorting through the various choices that need to be made, along the way showing both those choices that were incorporated into the artwork as well as those that were rejected. Public art connected with the four stories will be inaugurated during summer 2017, in conjunction with significant public events. Interested filmmakers can get a better idea of the look and feel of the project's films by viewing the pilot episode for the series, *Thomas Widd's Lost Story*, at the [project website](#).

Lost Stories 2017 Edition

The four stories selected to mark the 150th anniversary of Canada deal with various topics from the past and are from all parts of the country. Further details about these

stories are also available at the [project website](#). However, this particular call is aimed at artists interested in creating artwork that tells the story described below.



The Lepers of Sheldrake Island, New Brunswick:

Leprosy was a public health challenge along sections of the eastern coast of New Brunswick. Mostly afflicting Acadians, the problem was so severe that in 1844 the New Brunswick government sent thirty lepers to Sheldrake Island, at the mouth of the Miramichi River. The lepers endured difficult conditions. Some escaped, and outrage over their situation resulted in their

relocation in 1849 to a new facility, closer to their families. Artwork will be constructed on a site, on the grounds of St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church, the white church building in the photo, that overlooks the island.

Call for Submissions: Deadline 23 January 2017.

We invite filmmakers who have some connection with this story to submit a dossier, no later than 23 January 2017. In your covering letter, please explain your ties to story, in addition to discussing your practice and whether you have experience in filming artists at work, as well as your CV.

Dossiers will be evaluated by the [team](#) directing the Lost Stories Project, which includes individuals with a wide array of experience in presenting stories about the past in public space. Short lists will be created in late-January, with interviews (most likely by Skype) to follow. Each of the selected filmmakers will receive \$23,000 to cover all expenses connected with production of the film that would need to be delivered no later than 1 December 2017. Depending on the distance between the artist, the site for the public art, and the home base of the filmmaker, a small travel budget may be available. The films will be distributed by means of the project website.

For further information, or to submit your dossier, contact: historylost@concordia.ca, using the subject line: Lost Stories 2017 Films.

Your submission should contain:

- Cover letter outlining your ties to this specific story or to one of the communities involved. In addition, indicate whether you have experience in filming artists at work.
- CV
- Examples of previous film projects. Please send links to your website or other online site (such as Dropbox or Google Drive) to view examples of your previous film projects.

Applications must be received by midnight on 23 January 2017.



Canada