



Media Release

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Katherine Penhale Promoted To CIFF Executive Director Position After Nationwide Search

Calgary, AB - In late 2023 the Calgary International Film Festival's Board of Directors appointed Operations Director and Chief of Staff Katherine Penhale as Acting Executive Director. Penhale has been promoted to Executive Director on a permanent basis.

"On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am thrilled to congratulate Katherine on her well-deserved promotion to Executive Director of CIFF. Following a nationwide search, it was clear that Katherine's leadership, passion, and vision made her the perfect choice to lead our festival forward, and the unanimous decision reflects our confidence in her abilities," said Amish Morjaria, President of CIFF's Board of Directors.

"We are especially proud to cultivate and promote talent from within, reinforcing our commitment to fostering internal growth. I am excited to see how Katherine and her incredible team will take CIFF to new heights, advancing our vision and shaping the festival's future."

After joining the CIFF team in 2016 as a Venue Coordinator, Penhale quickly advanced to the position of Operations Manager in 2018. She was promoted to Operations Director in 2021 and then to Operations Director and Chief of Staff in January 2023, before taking on the role of Acting Executive Director.

Over the past ten months, Penhale has announced the organization's new Constellation Strategic Plan and has worked tirelessly to prepare and execute the 25th Anniversary festival, which wrapped on September 29th with attendance exceeding 31,000 film fans.

"It's a tremendous honour and a great responsibility to be offered the opportunity to serve as Executive Director of CIFF, an organization I have been a part of for eight years and maintain an unwavering passion for," said Katherine Penhale.

Throughout her professional career, Penhale has performed multiple leadership roles through strategic planning, managing end-to-end operational functions, cross-

functional collaboration, and financial analysis within highly competitive and fast-paced general business environments.

“Our team, stakeholders, and audience are excited about what comes next for CIFF, and I’m thrilled to be a part of exploring and reimagining what a film festival can be.”

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About the Calgary International Film Festival

Running annually since 2000, the Calgary International Film Festival (CIFF) is a not-for-profit charitable organization that brings films and filmmakers from around the world to Calgary for its annual Fall festival and year-round programming. CIFF is now the largest event of its kind in Alberta and the Prairies, bringing audiences together for remarkable and engaging cinematic experiences.