



### Systemic Racism - Pitch

**One-liner:** Racism as it is pervasive in many sectors of Canadian and global society.

**Logline:** Recognising the existence and impacts of systemic racism.

I am **Marlene Hale** from the Lak'silyu Clan of the Wet'suwet'en Nation, in the northwest of so-called Canada.

I am an Indigenous Chef/Public Speaker/Filmmaker, based in Montreal since 2012.

On January 8, 2019, I became a full-time activist to fight for my People's rights and wellbeing. That was the month when the Coastal GasLink (CGL) forced an injunction on our people, to build a pipeline through 22,000 kilometers of Wet'suwet'en territory. Now, the pipeline is under the last untamed Wedzin Kwa River. These actions threaten the salmon migration that feeds all of the Wet'suwet'en territory.

It became my mission to advocate and fight for my Wet'suwet'en people and to raise awareness across Canada and the world, about our struggles against the CGL pipeline. It has now become the fight of my life - for the generations to come. Now I am leading the research and development to push for a full length documentary film on Addressing Systemic Injustice in Canada.

**Short summary:** Underrepresented groups Indigenous, Black, racialized and LGBTQ2+ communities, and people with disabilities. Focusing on Canada's policing, prison and health systems, this film shares real stories often hidden from view. Histories of colonialism and slavery continue to impact the delivery and use of Canadian healthcare systems, with Indigenous, Black, and racialised people facing barriers to access and unequal treatment and care. Standing in solidarity with Indigenous and IBPOC communities in Canada and worldwide, this film uncovers the impacts of these systemic issues and highlights the stories and histories of those who are challenging ongoing injustices and fighting for their future.

## Systemic Racism

The film will start with **Elder Bill Jones** from the Pacheedaht First Nation, discussing the reality of Indigenous people and land defenders who oppose Teal-Jones and industrial logging in our old growth forests. The film will also interview people in Canada as well as other parts of the world. It will then end with 10-year old climate communicator **Robert Kim** from Toronto, who will uplift viewers with hope for the future generation.

**Your role:** I will be acting as the director and filmmaker, until I am replaced by other Indigenous crew members.



### Other team members:

**Nancy Roach** - Editor

**Diana Hellson** - Editor

**Uzair Merchant** - Director

**Volunteers:** writers/editors/etc. until I get full funding.

**How many or what percentage is IBPOC:** Nearly 50%.

### Short bio for each:

Diana Hellson - Coming soon.

**Type of documentary:** Participatory documentary

**Stage at which the documentary is at:** Pitch and pre-development stage.

**Projected budget:** - \$500,000 CAD

**Why is this story important:** This film proposes a re-thinking, including prioritising IBPOC centred justice. It argues that systemic change is needed but that this is an active process. Viewers are left with a sense of urgency and hope. They feel better equipped to call out and challenge systemic racism and to hold those in power to account.

## Systemic Racism

Systemic racism includes: recurrent individual mistreatment; exclusionary or harmful institutional policies and practices; and broader societal and intergenerational injustice.

**Why now?** It is about the people involved, and it helps me see what the 8th generation will see in the world we are creating.

**Why me?** I have the platform and the audience to do the work. I have so many people, writers,

### **What do you hope the documentary will achieve?**

Reflecting that **racism** lives within our society is an important first step. After this documentary the world has a better grasp at it. To End Systemic Racism, Ensure Systemic Equality worldwide.

### **Who will be your audience (demographic, age range, country)?**

Parents of children, educators, elders, community groups, churches,

**Systemic Racism** will be a documentary starting with the Older Generation and ending with the eighth generation. Hopefully when they are of age it would be

The documentary will start with **Elder Bill Jones** of the Pacheedaht territory. Where he speaks so eloquently of his grandfather's words "look after the forest" and how far back Systemic Racism goes.

At the Fairy Creek Blockade that began in August 2019, even though the ancestral Indigenous and the Forest Defenders haven't been able to save all of the old growth forest, as the largest act of civil disobedience in Canadian history, we're-flowered between five and seven thousand people to realize that they have their own personhood that was quashed by Western Culture: imperialist, colonial, economic culture. We planted the seed of self-realization there. One young man said to me after one of my talks, "Oh, we are here re-indigenizing ourselves." Now, he is out in the world beyond Fairy Creek sharing the finding of himself so that others can find themselves beyond an economic culture of exploitation as well.

Like the old growth forest and the experiences of all of the Forest Defenders who came to defend our Great Mother at Fairy Creek, this book will be a gathering place and an invitation for everyone to join us. It will be composed in the form of 'wisdom weaving' whereby, through my story, the colonization of our people will

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be woven into sharing what we have found and can always find through our Great Mother. This book will share my personal journey of awakening at Fairy Creek; it will strengthen hope by guiding this world in its self-realization and help humankind get out of this current mess we are in as a species. I want to share this story as my legacy to my people and to the world before I die and, as my mother said, before I walk in the clouds until I am called again.

### **Robert Kim**

Robert is the 10 year old host of Children's Climate Championship on YouTube where he interviews child activists 12 and under from around the world to amplify their voices about what they are doing to help save the world. He also talks to scientists and organizations about climate change and biodiversity and donates money as a thank you to a charity of their choice.

**Do you have a sizzle reel?** No

**Do you have a website?** GoDaddy Website - [marlenehale.ca](http://marlenehale.ca)

<https://chefmaluh.ca/>

**What are your credentials? (cv)**