

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:

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

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

https://chefmaluh.ca/

What are your credentials? (cv)

That's a strong and important direction—but to make it truly land in universities, it needs to go beyond telling the story and clearly show how it becomes a *teaching tool*, not just a film.

Right now, you're sitting on something powerful: lived experience, activism, and real cases. The next step is shaping it so educators can *use it in the classroom without extra work*. That's what will get it adopted.

Here's how to think about it:

1. Clarify the purpose in academic terms

Universities will ask: *What does this help students learn?*
So frame your film around outcomes like:

- Understanding systemic racism (not just individual acts)
- Recognizing environmental racism in Canada
- Connecting policy, history, and lived experience
- Exploring Indigenous knowledge and resistance

You're not just making a film—you're creating a **learning experience**.

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2. Build it as a teaching platform (not just a documentary)

If you want professors to actually use it, pair the film with:

- A **discussion guide** (key questions after each segment)
- **Case studies** (Grassy Narrows, Pictou Landing, oil sands, etc.)
- **Reflection prompts** for students
- A short **facilitator guide** for instructors

That turns your film into something that can fit into:

- Sociology courses
- Indigenous studies
- Environmental studies
- Political science
- Social work programs

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3. Structure the film in "chapters"

Instead of one continuous narrative, consider breaking it into segments like:

- What is systemic racism?
- Historical roots (colonial systems, policy)
- Environmental racism (your strongest area)
- Lived experiences and testimony
- Resistance, solutions, and Indigenous leadership

Professors love modular content—they can show 10–20 minutes and build a class around it.

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4. Ground it in real impact (this is your strength)

You already have a powerful angle with:

- Communities facing contaminated water
- Ongoing health impacts (like cancer clusters)
- Government inaction despite evidence

Lean into that. Universities respond strongly to **real-world accountability**.

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5. Include solutions—not just trauma

A lot of films stop at exposing harm. Yours should go further:

- What does justice look like?
- What policies need to change?
- What role do students, institutions, and governments play?
- How do Indigenous knowledge systems guide solutions?

This is what makes it *transformative*, not just informative.

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6. Build relationships while you're making it

Don't wait until it's finished. Start now:

- Reach out to professors in Montreal and across Canada
- Connect with departments (Indigenous studies, social justice, education)
- Offer early screenings or consultations

You could even create an **advisory circle** of educators and Elders to guide it.

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7. Position yourself clearly

You're not just a filmmaker—you're:

- An Indigenous activist
- A knowledge holder
- A facilitator of dialogue

That matters. Universities are looking for **authentic voices**, not just polished productions.

If you want, I can help you next with:

- A strong **project description or pitch** for universities
- A **grant proposal framing** this as an educational tool
- Or a **film outline/script structure** based on your current material

This has the potential to be more than a film—it could become something that actually shifts how people are taught in this country.