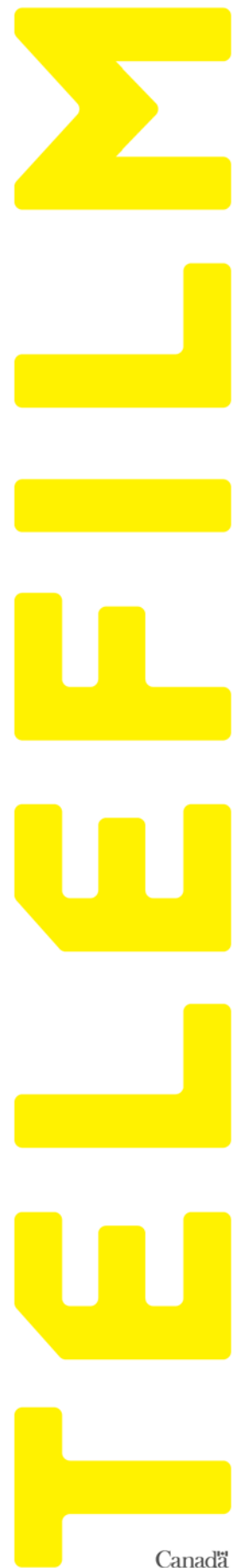


# MICRO-BUDGET PRODUCTION PROGRAM

FUNDING OF MICRO-BUDGET FEATURE FILMS  
FROM EMERGING FILMMAKERS

GUIDELINES

Ce document est également disponible en français



## PROGRAM SUMMARY

The *Micro-Budget Production Program - Funding of Micro-Budget Feature Films from Emerging Filmmakers* (the “Program”) aims to provide financing to emerging filmmakers (i.e. producers, directors or writers) for the production, distribution and promotion of a first feature-length film.

Financing will be provided to micro-budget projects chosen amongst projects recommended by selected industry partners<sup>1</sup>. Once completed, the projects must be made available to the public on one or more distribution platforms, with a primary focus on digital platform releases (e.g. web portals, video portals such as YouTube or Netflix, video on demand, mobile platforms/devices).

These guidelines provide direction regarding the Program’s targeted objectives, eligibility and evaluation criteria, and the terms and conditions of funding by Telefilm Canada (“Telefilm”).

## PROGRAM INTENT AND OBJECTIVES

This Program intends to:

- encourage and support emerging Canadian filmmakers;
- stimulate the use of new digital distribution platforms and increase audience access to the works of new Canadian talent;
- encourage innovation and creativity at all stages of the production, distribution and promotion processes;
- help applicants build their portfolios.

## 1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS AND PROJECTS

### 1.1. Eligibility criteria for applicants

To be eligible to this Program, the applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- be a student or recent alumnus<sup>2</sup> from a production program offered by one of the selected partners, or be a recent member<sup>3</sup> of a film cooperative listed as a selected partner;
- have produced and/or directed at least one short film (i.e. 30 minutes or less), but not have produced and/or directed a feature length film (i.e. 75 minutes or more);
- submit a [letter of recommendation](#) from one of the selected partners. Note that each partner can only recommend one applicant per year; and
- be a Canadian citizen within the definition of the [Citizenship Act](#), or a permanent resident within the definition of the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#).

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<sup>1</sup> The list of selected partners is available on [Telefilm’s website](#).

<sup>2</sup> Recent alumni from a production program are students who have graduated in the last three years from the time of application to Telefilm under this Program.

<sup>3</sup> Recent members of a film cooperative are people who have been members of the cooperative for less than three years at the time of application to Telefilm under this Program, and have participated in training programs and/or initiatives offered by the cooperative.

Note that, while this Program is open to producers, directors and writers, the applicant must, in all cases, also be the producer of the project.

### **1.2. Eligibility criteria for projects**

To be eligible, the project must be a fictional or a documentary feature length film destined for distribution to the public on one or more platforms. Furthermore, the project's maximum budget must not be higher than \$250,000.

The applicant must also provide the following elements in support of the project:

- 1)** a 3 to 5 minute video clip pitch that will:
  - identify the creative team involved in the project;
  - state the project's working title;
  - identify the genre;
  - outline the creative team's vision;
  - provide a synopsis of the story;
  - identify the targeted audience and present ideas on reaching and engaging the targeted audience;
- 2)** a trailer of the project, if available;
- 3)** CVs of the applicant and of the creative team;
- 4)** a written synopsis of the project including a description of the team's vision;
- 5)** the most current draft of the script;
- 6)** a launch plan for the project (e.g.: What platforms would be best suited for the project? What distribution and promotion partners are anticipated? What are the goals in terms of audience outreach and engagement?);
- 7)** a timeline for production;
- 8)** the total budget of the project and its financial structure.

Note that the project must conform to the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) Code of Ethics and to all other programming standards endorsed by the CAB or the CRTC, and not contain any element that is an offence under the [Criminal Code](#), is libellous or in any other way unlawful.

## 2. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation of the projects submitted to Telefilm will be based on the following elements:

- applicant's and creative team's background;
- quality and innovativeness of the creative content;
- quality of the launch strategy;
- complimentary nature of all components of the project (i.e. content, production and distribution);
- feasibility of the project in terms of, amongst other things, mentoring, material or other type of support provided to the project, scope, timeline, total budget and financial structure;

To contribute to the achievement of the Program's objectives, Telefilm will seek to support a variety of genres and regions in its choice of projects.

## 3. TERMS OF FUNDING

Telefilm's funding will be in the form of a non-repayable financial contribution that can cover 100% of the financing for a maximum amount up to \$120,000 per project, depending on the number of projects retained.

The project's total budget must not be higher than \$250,000. Telefilm's financial contribution must be used to cover direct expenses relating to the production, distribution and promotion of the project.

Applicants who have received a financial contribution under this Program must deliver a completed project no later than twelve months after contracting with Telefilm. The project should be made available to the public no later than three months after completion.

Note that a project that was refused financing under this Program cannot be resubmitted for consideration during another submission period for this Program.

Furthermore, applicants who are selected for Telefilm financing will need to be incorporated at the time of contracting with Telefilm. The newly-created corporation will have to own 100% of the rights of the project and be under Canadian control as determined under sections 26 to 28 of the [Investment Canada Act](#).

## 4. HOW TO APPLY

Applicants who have received a letter of recommendation from a selected partner must submit their application to Telefilm by the application deadline that can be found on [Telefilm's website](#). The onus is on the applicant to complete the application process and provide any supporting documents required by Telefilm. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The applicant's inability to provide supporting documentation will result in the application being removed from the evaluation process.

Please visit our website for further details on how to apply.

## 5. GENERAL INFORMATION

While compliance with the guidelines is a prerequisite to eligibility for funding, compliance does not guarantee entitlement to Telefilm funds. Telefilm may make adjustments to its guidelines and application forms from time to time as required. Telefilm has full discretion in the application of, or exception to, these guidelines to ensure that its funding is provided to those projects that meet its spirit and intent. In all questions of interpretation of either these guidelines, or the spirit and intent of this Program, Telefilm's interpretation shall prevail.

Any information, in any form, provided, obtained, created, or communicated in connection with the application is subject to the [Access to Information Act](#) and the [Privacy Act](#).