

CANADA FEATURE FILM FUND (CFFF)

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

GUIDELINES

APPLICABLE AS OF JUNE 23, 2022

Ce document est également disponible
en français

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Program Summary

The Development Program (the “**Program**”) is aimed at supporting the development of eligible Canadian feature films and is intended for Canadian production companies involved in the production of feature films in Canada.

These guidelines provide direction regarding the Program’s objectives, eligibility and evaluation criteria, and the terms and conditions of funding.

Program Principles

The guiding principles of the Program are:

- To support the development of feature films that will speak to Canadian and international audiences, and that will bring both cultural impact and audience engagement. Telefilm seeks to fund films that will proceed to production and build and contribute to our Canadian cultural legacy.
- To support teams with a strong sensibility and perspective who will bring original voices and approaches and will advance cinematic expression.
- To support emerging and established teams in advancing their artistic career through ambitious and impactful films.
- To support greater equity and representation in storytelling, that reflects gender parity and representation from various communities including Indigenous, Black and People of Colour as well as members of 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and People with Disabilities from all regions of the country.
- To support Indigenous content that is produced by creators who are Indigenous and/or have engaged in meaningful research, collaboration, and cooperation with Indigenous communities impacted by their projects. Telefilm encourages all Applicants to respect the guiding principles and best practices set out in the [On-Screen Protocols & Pathways Media Production Guide](#).
- To support creative teams who are from underrepresented communities and/or who have engaged in meaningful research, collaboration, and cooperation with underrepresented communities, where films are dealing with the experiences of those communities.
- To give voice to creative teams from Official Language Minority Communities and those situated outside the main production centers of Toronto and Montreal.
- To provide predictability and flexibility for companies with a strong performance.

The Program allocates resources on a **linguistic basis** which maintains approximately **one-third of funding** for **French-language** projects.

PRESENTATION OF THE STREAMS

	Prequalified Stream	General Stream	Indigenous Stream	Stream for Black and People of Colour
Summary Description	<p>Automatic development funding for 125 eligible Canadian companies with a total performance ratio ranking among the highest ones, subject to linguistic and regional splits ranking.</p> <p>All Applicants who are eligible to this Stream will be notified of their eligibility status and the amount of funding they are eligible for ahead of the opening of the Program.</p>	<p>Selectively decided development funding for eligible Canadian companies. Projects are evaluated by advisory committees based on the evaluation criteria indicated below and ranked using an evaluation grid.</p>		

APPLICANTS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Head Office and Activities	<p>All Applicants must:</p> <p>a) have their head office and carry out their activities in Canada;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p>b) operate as feature film production companies.</p>			
Canadian Control	<p>All Applicants must be Canadian-controlled corporations, as determined under sections 26 to 28 of the Investment Canada Act.</p>			

	Prequalified Stream	General Stream	Indigenous Stream	Stream for Black and People of Colour
Additional Corporate Control Requirements	No additional requirements	<p>There are no additional requirements for Applicants under this Stream.</p> <p>However, Applicants who are majority owned and controlled by members of Official Language Minority Communities (“OLMC Applicants”) have more flexible eligibility criteria in terms of previous works.</p>	All Applicants must be production companies that are majority owned and controlled by Indigenous persons.	All Applicants must be production companies that are majority owned and controlled by Black persons and/or People of Colour.

	Prequalified Stream	General Stream	Indigenous Stream	Stream for Black and People of Colour
Previous Work	<p>To be eligible, Applicants must have a total performance ratio ranking among the highest ones, subject to linguistic and regional splits.</p> <p>Note: The performance ratio of an Applicant is determined by the sum of the weighted performance ratio of all Canadian projects:</p> <p>a) produced by the Applicant;</p> <p>b) supported by Telefilm in production; and</p> <p>c) released theatrically between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2021, as evidenced by the Movie Theatre Association of Canada (MTAC).</p> <p>Projects that meet the first 2 criteria but were only released on digital platform(s) due to the COVID-19 pandemic are also considered in the performance ratio calculations if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ they were released digitally between March 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021, by a third-party distributor or a Telefilm-approved distributor; ✓ they received funding under Telefilm's National Marketing Program for the digital release; and 	<p>IMPORTANT: if the Applicant is OLMC owned and controlled, please see the next column for the requirements in terms of previous work.</p> <p>To be eligible, Applicants must have produced at least <u>one</u> of the following:</p> <p>a) a Canadian fictional or documentary feature film that was released theatrically between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2021; or</p> <p>b) a Canadian fictional or documentary feature film that had its first commercial release between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2021 and was presented at a Qualifying Festival during that same period; or</p> <p>c) a Canadian fictional or documentary feature film that was released on digital platform(s) due to the COVID-19 pandemic between March 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021, that was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ released on a digital platform by a third-party distributor or a Telefilm-approved distributor; and/or ✓ received funding under Telefilm's National Marketing Program for the digital platform release. <p>d) a fictional or documentary feature film funded by Telefilm under the Talent to Watch Program that was released on digital platform(s) between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2021.</p>	<p>To be eligible, Applicants to the Indigenous Stream and the Stream for Black and People of Colour and Applicants owned and controlled by OLMC members applying to the General Stream must have produced at least <u>one</u> of the following:</p> <p>a) a Canadian fictional or documentary feature film that was released theatrically between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2021; or</p> <p>b) a Canadian fictional or documentary feature film that had its first commercial release between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2021 and was presented at a Qualifying Festival during that same period; or</p> <p>c) a Canadian fictional or documentary feature film that was released on digital platform(s) due to the COVID-19 pandemic between March 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021, that was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ released on a digital platform by a third-party distributor or a Telefilm-approved distributor; and/or ✓ received funding under Telefilm's National Marketing Program for the digital platform release. <p>d) a Canadian feature film funded by Telefilm under the Talent to Watch Program that was released on digital platform(s) between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2021; or</p> <p>e) a short film that had its first commercial release between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2021 and was presented at a Qualifying Festival during that same period; or</p> <p>f) one hour of Canadian Television that aired for the first time between January 1, 2016, and December 31, 2021.</p> <p>What is considered Canadian?</p> <p>Canadian projects are ones that either have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ been certified by the Canadian Audiovisual Certification Office (CAVCO) as a "Canadian film or video production" with a minimum of 6 out of 10 points or the prorated equivalent (i.e., a minimum of 60% of available CAVCO points); or ✓ been recognized as an Audiovisual Treaty Coproduction by the Minister of Canadian Heritage. 	

	<p>✓ the digital release was authorized by Telefilm due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Filmography</p> <p>The Applicant is responsible for ensuring that its filmography in Dialogue is accurate at all times.</p> <p>For more information on the performance ratio calculation and access to the Prequalified Stream, please refer to the Performance Ratio Calculation and Access to the Prequalified Stream Summary available on the Program's webpage.</p>	<p>What is considered Canadian?</p> <p>Canadian projects are ones that either have:</p> <p>✓ been certified by the Canadian Audiovisual Certification Office (CAVCO) as a “Canadian film or video production” with a minimum of 8 out of 10 points or the prorated equivalent (i.e., a minimum of 80% of available CAVCO points) or</p> <p>✓ been recognized as an Audiovisual Treaty Coproduction by the Minister of Canadian Heritage.</p>	
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➤ **Share in the Performance Ratio**

All Applicants must have at least 20% share in the performance ratio of the previous works considered for their eligibility, as established at time of contract if the work was funded by Telefilm in production. If not, Telefilm will consider copyright share.

➤ **Credits**

The individual lead producer of the Applicant company must have received one of the following production credits in the previous works considered for the Applicant’s eligibility:

- ✓ Producer
- ✓ Executive producer

➤ **Two Releases**

Telefilm will relate only to the first release of a work to determine if it was released during the dates indicated above. For example, if a work was released theatrically one year and in festivals or on digital platforms later (or vice versa), the period for the two releases cannot combine to extend over six years.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO PROJECTS SUBMITTED FOR FUNDING

<p>Language</p>	<p>All projects must be written in English, French or in an Indigenous language and intended to be produced or completed in these languages.</p> <p>Note: Projects intended to be produced or completed in a language other than English, French or in an Indigenous language for artistic imperatives are also eligible.</p> <p>In all cases, all documentation must be submitted to Telefilm exclusively in one Official Language, either French or English.</p>
<p>Screenwriter</p>	<p>All projects must be written by Canadian screenwriters.</p>

	Prequalified Stream	General Stream	Indigenous Stream	Stream for Black and People of Colour
Key Creative Personnel	No specific requirements	No specific requirements	2/3 of the Key Creative Personnel members (i.e., screenwriter(s), producer(s) and, for the packaging phase, director(s)) must be Indigenous .	2/3 of the Key Creative Personnel members (i.e., screenwriter(s), producer(s) and, for the packaging phase, director(s)) must be Black and/or Persons of Colour .
Format	All projects must be intended to be feature length (75 minutes or more) fictional or documentary films.			
Canadian Content	All projects must be intended to be Canadian, i.e., either : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) certified by CAVCO as a “Canadian film or video production” with a minimum of 8 out of 10 points or the prorated equivalent (i.e., a minimum of 80% of available CAVCO points); or b) recognized as an Audiovisual Treaty Coproduction by the Minister of Canadian Heritage. 			
	Prequalified Stream	General Stream	Indigenous Stream	Stream for Black and People of Colour
Financial and Creative Control	All projects must be under the financial and creative control of the applicants , which must hold all the exclusive rights and options , for at least 24 months , necessary for the adaptation of the original work or concept (if applicable) and for the full and complete worldwide exploitation of the script and production.		All projects must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be under the financial and creative control of the applicants, which must hold all the exclusive rights and options, for at least 24 months, necessary for the adaptation of the original work or concept (if applicable) and for the full and complete worldwide exploitation of the script and production; and ii. be under the financial and creative control of Indigenous Persons. 	All projects must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. be under the financial and creative control of the applicants, which must hold all the exclusive rights and options, for at least 24 months, necessary for the adaptation of the original work or concept (if applicable) and for the full and complete worldwide exploitation of the script and production; and ii. be under the financial and creative control of Black persons and/or Persons of Colour.
Telefilm’s Programs	All projects must be intended to be theatrically released and eligible for production funding under the Production Program , the Theatrical Documentary Program or the Talent to Watch Program .			
Theatrical Release	All projects must be intended to be theatrically released.			
Ethics and Programming Standards	All projects must comply with the Canadian Association of Broadcasters (CAB) Code of Ethics and with 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.			
Outstanding Deliverables	Projects that have any outstanding deliverables relating to a previous development contract with Telefilm are not eligible.			

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

	Prequalified Stream	General Stream	Indigenous Stream	Stream for Black and People of Colour
Description of the Process	<p>Funding under the Prequalified Stream is automatic.</p> <p>There are three levels of funding, to which access is determined by ranking production companies based on their performance ratio. A total of 125 companies will have access to the Prequalified Stream. Depending on their ranking, companies may be in tier A, B or C.</p> <p>Tier A includes 25 companies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 8 French-language companies with the highest performance ratio; ✓ 17 English-language companies with the highest performance ratio. <p>Tiers B and C include a further 100 companies cumulatively:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ One third of these (34) are French-language companies; ✓ two thirds (66) are English-language companies that are selected based on their performance ratio, but also to ensure regional representation across the country. <p>Of these 100 companies, the top 50 make up tier B and the next 50 companies make up tier C.</p>	<p>Funding under these streams is selective.</p> <p>Advisory committees will evaluate projects submitted under the General Stream, Indigenous Stream and Stream for Black and People of Colour based on the evaluation criteria described below. Advisory committees may be composed of internal members, external members, or a mix of internal and external members.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➤ Diversity of Voices</p> <p>The decision-making process takes into consideration Telefilm’s objective to foster a diversity of voices in the industry to ensure that Telefilm funds a balanced portfolio of productions reflecting a variety of genres, budgets and company sizes, regions across the country, and different viewpoints.</p> <p>As part of fostering diversity of voices, Telefilm may prioritize projects whose key creatives (i.e., screenwriter(s) and/or producer(s) and/or director(s) for the packaging phase) are members of communities supported through its Inclusion Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Indigenous; ✓ Black people; ✓ People of Colour; ✓ 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals; ✓ Gender-diverse identities and expressions; ✓ Persons with disabilities; ✓ Members of Official Language Minority Communities. <p>Gender parity will continue to be a priority across all programs in particular within communities where women are still underrepresented. Prioritization also considers the intersectionality of identities as a way to better reflect a large spectrum of lived experiences.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➤ Canadian Point of View</p> <p>Telefilm aims to support the production of feature films which contain significant Canadian creative elements. While Telefilm does not intend to restrict filmmakers in their choices of stories, or their natural settings, it will, wherever possible, give priority to projects that present a distinctly Canadian point of view.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">➤ Indigenous Stream</p> <p>As part of its commitment to ensuring the inclusion of Indigenous creators in Canada (First Nations, Inuit, Métis), Telefilm sets aside funding for projects by Indigenous filmmakers, communities, and Nations in Canada.</p> <p>The advisory committee for the Indigenous Stream includes Indigenous representation, among other lenses, who evaluate projects based on the evaluation criteria and submit their recommendations to Telefilm.</p> <p>All applicants are encouraged to respect the guiding principles and best practices set out in the On-Screen Protocols & Pathways Media Production Guide.</p>		

	<p>To determine a company's language, Telefilm uses the weighted sum of the Canadian shares of eligible films' production budgets. A company whose majority of production expenses were incurred on French-language projects will be considered a French-language company, and vice versa if the majority of expenses were incurred on English-language projects.</p>	<p>➤ Stream for Black and People of Colour</p> <p>As part of its larger goal of achieving a funding portfolio that better represents Canada, Telefilm sets aside funding for projects by Canadian filmmakers who are Black and/or People of Colour.</p> <p>The advisory committee includes representation of Black persons and Persons of Colour members, among other lenses, who evaluate projects based on the evaluation criteria and submit their recommendations to Telefilm.</p>		
	<p>Prequalified Stream</p>	<p>General Stream</p>	<p>Indigenous Stream</p>	<p>Stream for Black and People of Colour</p>
<p>Evaluation Criteria</p>	<p>Automatic funding – Projects are not evaluated.</p>	<p>Advisory committees will evaluate projects submitted under the General Stream, Indigenous Stream and Stream for Black and People of Colour based on the evaluation criteria described below.</p> <p>Each advisory committee uses an evaluation grid to score and rank eligible projects. The grid will be available on the Program webpage ahead of the opening date.</p> <p>1. Creative Elements</p> <p>Telefilm evaluates the creative elements of the project including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ originality and quality of the creative materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creative materials can include the synopsis, the pitch document, and the treatment or script. ✓ Cinematic potential of the film; and ✓ Elements that speak to Canadian experiences and audiences. <p>2. Track Record of the Key Creative Personnel</p> <p>Telefilm evaluates the screen-based industry experience of the creative team, primarily the producer and screenwriter (and the director for the packaging phase), including critical acclaim, and audience success.</p> <p>Telefilm also considers the track record based on past and current performance including the creative team's full range of industry experience and level of expertise as it relates to the nature and scope of the project.</p> <p>Lastly, Telefilm considers any relevant complementary expertise of the creative team.</p> <p>3. Cultural Impact and Audience Reach Potential</p> <p>Telefilm assesses the cultural impact and audience potential of a project through considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Its cultural and/or commercial potential; ✓ Its potential to find and reach its target audience; ✓ Whether it speaks to a Canadian and international audience and/or targets an underrepresented audience; and ✓ Whether it has the capacity to stand out in the current feature film landscape. 		

Furthermore, Telefilm considers the project's potential for cultural resonance (e.g., critical reviews, film festival acclaim, adding to representation in content, generating new perspectives and cultural conversation, etc.).

TERMS OF FUNDING

Telefilm's Financial Participation

Telefilm's financial participation takes the form of an **advance repayable** in accordance with the terms of the contract between Telefilm and the Applicant, usually on the earliest of the following dates:

- ✓ the first day of filming (or any other use of the script); **or**
- ✓ the date of the sale, assignment, or other disposition of the rights to a project.

Telefilm's **minimum financial participation** in individual projects is **\$15,000** and may be up to 100% of the budget for the selected development stage, subject to the caps below.

	Prequalified Stream	General Stream	Indigenous Stream	Stream for Black and People of Colour
Funding Amount and Maximum number of projects per application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tier A: \$100,000 – Max. 5 projects per application • Tier B: \$60,000 – Max. 3 projects per application • Tier C: \$30,000 – Max. 1 project per application 	Maximum of \$30,000 – 1 project per application.		

Eligible Costs

Telefilm's financial participation must be used to cover eligible costs directly associated with the development stage of the project. Eligible costs include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Budget breakdown;
- ✓ Corporate overhead (max 20% of direct costs);
- ✓ Demo;
- ✓ Design;
- ✓ Director fees (if the Director and the Screenwriter are not the same person);
- ✓ Fringe benefits;
- ✓ Graphic bible;
- ✓ Legal fees;
- ✓ Option fees including on a literary work (unless paid to the producer);
- ✓ Preproduction casting;
- ✓ Preproduction scouting;
- ✓ Producer fees (max 20% of direct costs);
- ✓ Research;
- ✓ Screenwriter fees, in accordance with the agreement;
- ✓ Scriptwriting workshops;
- ✓ Storyboard;
- ✓ Story Consultant/Script Editor (independent from the producer);
- ✓ Travel and related costs to assist in the preproduction scouting, the financing, or the final packaging of the film.
 - *Any travel during the COVID-19 pandemic must comply with any advice or directive issued by health authorities*

	<p>Only Canadian costs are eligible, with the exception of the following costs which can be non-Canadian:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Costs related to non-Canadian script editors and consultants whose services do not result in any copyright ownership in the project; ✓ Costs related to obtaining an option on literary work or on an original idea. <p>Note: Eligible Development Costs must include scriptwriting fees, but for animation projects, scriptwriting fees are not mandatory expenses for second and subsequent drafts.</p> <p>Telefilm encourages teams to collaborate with a story consultant or a script editor who is independent from the producer.</p>
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<p>Previously Funded Projects</p>	<p>If a project has previously received Telefilm development financing through another producer, the applicant must assume the outstanding repayment obligation before Telefilm will consider financing such project again.</p> <p>Telefilm must approve the transfer of rights to the new producer who will be responsible for repaying the development advance before the first day of principal photography.</p>
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APPLICATION PROCESS

<p>Maximum Number of Applications and Choice of a Stream</p>	<p>Applicants can only apply once a year, and to only one stream even if they are eligible to more than one. The choice of the stream is final and may not be modified after the financing request is filed.</p>
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<p>Application Submission and Required Documents</p>	<p>All Applicants must apply online using Dialogue and must submit all required documentation as listed on Telefilm’s website. All subsequent documentation must be submitted on-line through Dialogue. Applicants will be advised if their application is incomplete and will be given five (5) business days to provide missing documentation, following which additional documentation may not be accepted.</p> <p>If you have technical difficulties, please contact your regional coordinator. If required, please consult the Service Charter available on Telefilm’s website.</p> <p>For further information on the Program, please see the Essential Information Guide available on the Program’s webpage.</p>
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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 or portfolio is subject to the [Access to Information Act](#) and the [Privacy Act](#).

All Telefilm programs are subject to the availability of funding.