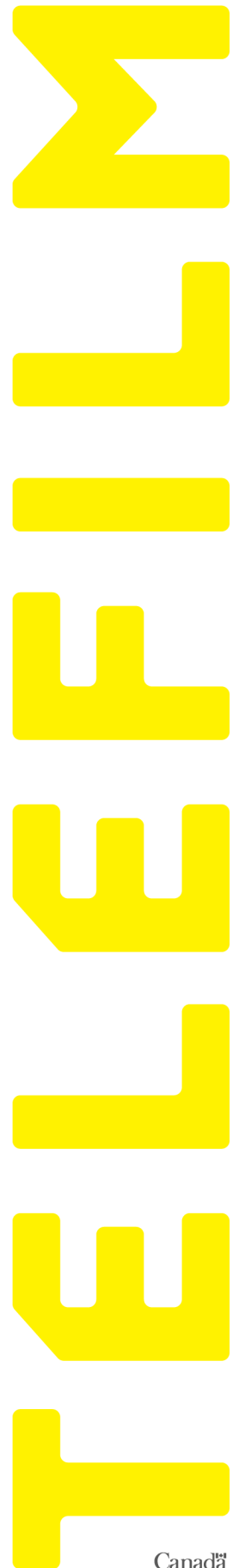


CANADA FEATURE FILM FUND (CFFF)

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR
FRENCH AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PROJECTS

APPLICABLE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2019

Ce document est également disponible en français



Program summary and eligible applicants

These guidelines are for the Canada Feature Film Fund (CFFF) Development Program (the “Program”). The Program is for the development of eligible Canadian feature films and is intended for Canadian production companies involved in the production of feature films in Canada as well as for new talent working in association with these production companies.

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

Program intent and objectives

The Program reflects Telefilm Canada (“Telefilm”)’s intent to maintain and strengthen its essential role as a funder of film productions.

The CFFF seeks to improve the performance of a greater number of feature films. The Program contributes to the achievement of this goal by providing funding support to companies that have successfully produced feature films.

The Program aims to provide eligible applicants with the flexibility they need by allowing them to propose an annual portfolio¹ of projects to Telefilm Canada. As such, applicants are expected to take responsibility for their development activities, and to be measured on the basis of the cultural and commercial success they obtain.

To contribute to the achievement of the Program’s objectives, Telefilm will seek to support Canadian feature films from various genres, budget sizes, production company types, regions across the country, and which feature different viewpoints such as those of women and new talent, as well as projects showcasing the cultural diversity of the country through the presence of Indigenous communities, linguistic minorities, etc.

Telefilm continues to support women, members of official language minority communities, and new talent by encouraging mentorships with eligible applicants.

1. Eligibility criteria for applicants and projects

1.1 General eligibility criteria for applicants

An applicant must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

- be a Canadian-controlled corporation, as determined under sections 26 to 28 of the [Investment Canada Act](#);
- have its head office in Canada and carry out its activities in Canada;
- operate as a feature film production company;
- have produced at least:
 - a) If applying under the automatic (regular) or selective streams:

¹ A body of one or more development projects whereby each project encompasses one or more development phases.

- One Canadian fictional or documentary feature film that was theatrically released in Canada in the last five years, and have at least a 20% share in the score of such film(s)². Such feature film(s) must, with respect to Canadian content certification have either been certified by the Canadian Audio-visual 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) under the provisions of the [Income Tax Act](#), or been recognized as an Audiovisual Treaty Coproduction by the Minister of Canadian Heritage (refer to the guidelines entitled [Audiovisual Treaty Coproductions](#) on Telefilm’s web site); or
- b) if applying under the Indigenous Stream, either:
- One Canadian fictional or documentary feature film that was selected at a recognized film festival over the past five years, and have at least a 20% share in the score of such film(s). Such feature film(s) must, with respect to Canadian content certification have either been certified by the Canadian Audio-visual 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) under the provisions of the [Income Tax Act](#), or been recognized as an Audiovisual Treaty Coproduction by the Minister of Canadian Heritage (refer to the guidelines entitled [Audiovisual Treaty Coproductions](#) on Telefilm’s web site); or
 - one project funded by Telefilm as part of the Talent to Watch Program that has been distributed in theatres or on one or more digital platforms³ in Canada over the past five years; or
 - one short film that was selected at a recognized film festival over the past five years; or
 - one hour of Television that aired for the first time over the past five years which must have either been certified by the Canadian Audio-visual 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) under the provisions of the [Income Tax Act](#), or been recognized as an Audiovisual Treaty Coproduction by the Minister of Canadian Heritage (refer to the guidelines entitled [Audiovisual Treaty Coproductions](#) on Telefilm’s website).

The individual lead producer of the applicant company must have received one of the following production credits on such film(s): producer or executive producer. Furthermore, the producers, the scriptwriter(s) and other key members of the development team who have control over the creative and financial aspects, as well as the exploitation of the projects submitted to Telefilm must be Canadian citizens within the definition of the [Citizenship Act](#) or permanent residents within the definition of the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#).

² For further details, please see the [FAQ](#) section of Telefilm’s website

³ Ibid.

1.2 Specific eligibility criteria for projects

To be eligible for inclusion in a portfolio of projects, a project must:

- be written in English, French or in an Indigenous language by a Canadian;
- be intended to be a Canadian feature-length fictional film or documentary or an Audiovisual Treaty Coproduction;
- subject to section 1.3, be under the financial and creative control of the applicant, and the applicant must hold all of 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;
- be intended to be eligible for production funding under the main CFFF production guidelines (for French or English language productions) or the Theatrical Documentary Program, with either certification 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) under the provisions of the [Income Tax Act](#), or with recognition as an Audiovisual Treaty Coproduction by the Minister of Canadian Heritage (refer to Telefilm’s guidelines entitled [Audiovisual Treaty Coproductions](#));
- 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;
- for the packaging phase⁴, have a commitment letter from a Telefilm approved distributor for the level of the budget envisioned, a confirmed director and have a production budget of \$2.5 million or more⁵;
- not have any outstanding deliverables relating to a previous development contract with Telefilm.

1.3 Additional eligibility criteria for projects originating from targeted groups

There are four targeted groups which consist of members of official language minority communities, new talent and women. A project originating from a targeted group must be included in a portfolio of projects submitted by an eligible applicant who will act as a mentor in helping to achieve a level of quality and viability for the project. Funding for applicants wishing to act as mentors will be provided on a priority basis to those eligible applicants who have demonstrated significant production experience. The creative and financial control and rights to the project (as specified in section 1.2), must reside with either the eligible applicant, the targeted group, or a combination of the two, except in the case of new talent, where the financial control and rights to the project must reside solely with the producer who is a member of the targeted group.

⁴ The packaging phase provides support for subsequent drafts of a screenplay where market elements (a director and an eligible distributor) have been attached.

⁵ Please note that this requirement does not apply to projects submitted under the Indigenous Stream.

A targeted group project must be:

- written in English by an Anglophone⁶ screenwriter and developed with an Anglophone producer, both of whom live and work in Quebec; or
- written in French by a Francophone⁷ screenwriter and developed with a Francophone producer, both of whom live and work outside of Québec; or
- written and produced by audio-visual creators without professional experience in those roles, but who may have professional experience in other audio-visual formats and media (new talent).
- written in French, English or Indigenous by a female screenwriter and developed with a female producer.

1.4 Additional eligibility criteria for mentors

Applicants who wish to act as mentors for projects originating from targeted groups must demonstrate significant production experience⁸.

2. Evaluation criteria

2.1 Evaluation criteria for regular funding

2.1.1. Automatic:

Program funds will be automatically allocated based on the total score given to each applicant's track record. The track record's score is based on the number of Canadian films that the applicant has produced that were theatrically released in Canada in the last five years⁹, the overall success of the film(s), and the share of the score held by the applicant in such film(s)¹⁰. Telefilm will take into account the total available Program funding in order to determine each applicant's available level of funding.¹¹

2.1.2. Targeted Groups funding

Projects from targeted groups will not be treated automatically, but will be selected as specified in section 2.2 below. Applications will be processed based on the submitted portfolio as a whole, rather than on the basis of individual projects within the portfolio.

2.1.3. Selective

A selective round of funding will take place alongside the automatic round to reach a balanced portfolio of projects if funds are available. Telefilm will, for projects of equal quality, prioritize those whose key creatives (director and/or writer and/or producer) reflect the diversity of Canada in terms of gender and cultural diversity.

⁶ An Anglophone is defined as someone, regardless of ethnic origin or mother tongue, whose main written and spoken language is English.

⁷ A Francophone is defined as someone, regardless of ethnic origin or mother tongue, whose main written and spoken language is French.

⁸ For further details, please see the [FAQ](#) section of Telefilm's Website

⁹ As specified in section 1.1 of these guidelines.

¹⁰ For further details, please see the [FAQ](#) section of Telefilm's Website.

¹¹ Ibid.

2.2 Evaluation criteria for funding projects from targeted groups

Funding applications for projects from targeted groups will be evaluated individually, based on the following criteria:

- the track record of the applicant and of the key members of the development team,
- the overall diversity of Telefilm's projects by supporting a variety of genres, budget sizes, regions, and viewpoints,
- the volume of production activity of the applicant and,
- the degree of the applicant's involvement in the films that have been included in its track record.

3. Indigenous Stream

In order to increase the diversity of the projects it supports, Telefilm will set aside funding for projects by Canadian filmmakers from Indigenous communities. These projects will be assessed initially by Telefilm's Content Analyst and Indigenous Liaison and subsequently by an external jury having Indigenous representation who will then submit its recommendations to Telefilm. In addition to the applicant and project eligibility criteria set out in section 1 of these guidelines, applicant companies applying for funding under this Stream will have to show that they meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be a production company with an Indigenous¹² majority shareholder¹³;
- The project(s) submitted under the Indigenous Stream must:
 - ✓ be written in English, French or an Indigenous language¹⁴ by an Indigenous screenwriter and developed with an Indigenous producer;
 - ✓ have a Story Consultant or a Script Editor who is independent from the producer¹⁵.

Projects submitted under this Stream will be assessed on the basis of the criteria set out in section 2, and the methods of funding set out in section 4 will be applied.

Please note that applicants who are eligible under the automatic (regular) or selective streams may not apply under the Indigenous Stream.

4. Terms of funding

¹² As defined in [the 2006 Census \(Statistics Canada\)](#), Aboriginal identity refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian, as defined by the *Indian Act of Canada*, and/or those who reported they were members of an Indian band or First Nation.

¹³ A majority shareholder is a shareholder who owns 51% or more of voting shares

¹⁴ As defined in the [2006 Census \(Statistics Canada\)](#), Aboriginal identity refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, North American Indian, Métis or Inuit, and/or those who reported being a Treaty Indian or a Registered Indian, as defined by the *Indian Act of Canada*, and/or those who reported they were members of an Indian band or First Nation.

¹⁵ For further details, please see the [FAQ](#) section of Telefilm's Website.

Telefilm Canada’s financial participation will take 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.

The minimum Telefilm participation in individual projects is \$15,000.

Telefilm’s financial participation will be a maximum of 80% of the eligible costs per project¹⁶, up to the total portfolio maximums set out below.

Funding grid:

Categories	Maximum Funding amount per Category	Maximum number of Projects within Category
Regular Funding	Automatic ¹⁷ : The amount determined by the applicant’s total score	5
	Selective: \$15,000 ¹⁸	1
Fast Track Companies¹⁹ Funding	\$200,000 ²⁰	5
Targeted Group Funding	An additional \$15,000 per targeted group	3 ²¹
Indigenous Stream Funding	\$18,000 per project	2

Applicants (including Fast Track stream applicants) may combine their funding access with targeted group funding (up to a maximum of eight projects per portfolio).

In order to ensure diversity, Telefilm reserves the right to consider the projects from targeted groups separately, and to include or exclude such projects from the rest of the eligible applicant’s portfolio.

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.

¹⁶ A detailed description of the eligible costs is available on Telefilm Canada's [website](#). Please note that the Story Consultant / Script Editor of the project, if any, must be independent from the Producer.

¹⁷ Subject to availability of funds.

¹⁸ Idem.

¹⁹ A Fast Track company is one that is eligible as such under the terms of the [CFFF Production Program](#) for French and English-language Productions Guidelines.

²⁰ In exceptional cases Telefilm may allow flexibility on the amount of the cap for Fast Track applicants.

²¹ The allowable maximum of three projects from targeted groups may be comprised of no more than one project per targeted group.

All payments from Telefilm will be made by direct deposit.

5. How to apply

- Applicants may submit an application to Telefilm during the application period indicated on Telefilm's website;
- All applications must be submitted online via [Dialogue](#);
- Applicants may only submit one portfolio application per fiscal year.

Further Information

For further information on the Program, please see the [FAQ](#) section of Telefilm's website.

6. 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](#).