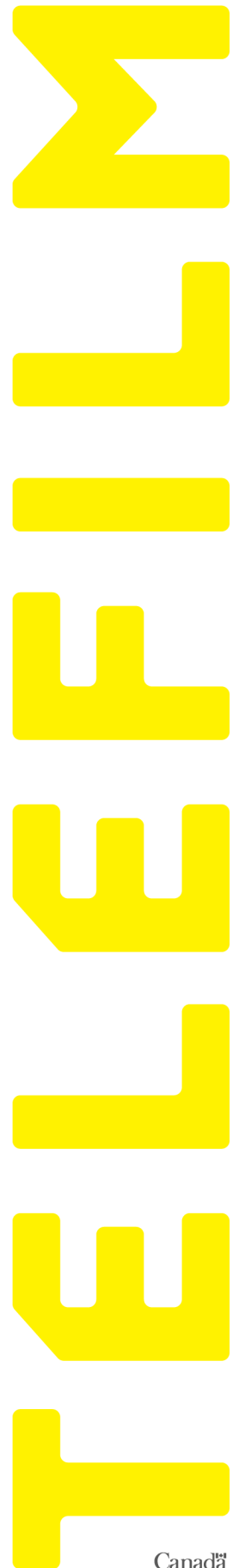


# **CANADA FEATURE FILM FUND (CFFF)**

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR  
FRENCH AND ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PROJECTS

APPLICABLE AS OF JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

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's intent to maintain and strengthen its essential role as a funder of film production.

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 portfolio<sup>1</sup> of projects to Telefilm Canada (Telefilm). 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 and company sizes, regions, with 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 members of Indigenous and 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, either:

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<sup>1</sup>A body of one or more development projects whereby each project encompasses one or more development phases.

- a) 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)<sup>2</sup>. 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).
- b) One project funded by Telefilm as part of the micro-budget production program that has been distributed in theaters or on one or more digital platforms in Canada over the past five years<sup>3</sup>.

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](#).

## 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](#));
- 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;

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<sup>2</sup> For further details, please see the [FAQ](#) section of Telefilm’s Website.

<sup>3</sup> For further details, please see the [FAQ](#) section of Telefilm’s Website.

- for the packaging phase<sup>4</sup>, 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 more;
- 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 five targeted groups which consist of members of Indigenous and 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 of the project. Telefilm will ensure that funding for applicants who will act as mentors will be provided 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.

A targeted group project must be:

- written in English by an Anglophone<sup>5</sup> and developed with an Anglophone producer both of whom live and work in Québec; or
- written in French by a Francophone<sup>6</sup> and developed with a Francophone producer both of whom live and work outside of Québec; or
- written in English, French or an Indigenous<sup>7</sup> language by an Indigenous writer and developed with an Indigenous producer; 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 writer and developed with a female producer.

## 2. Evaluation criteria

### 2.1 Evaluation criteria for regular funding

The majority of Program funding will be attributed automatically based on the total score that each applicant has attained. The total score will be based on the number of Canadian films that the applicant has produced that were theatrically released in Canada in the last five years<sup>8</sup>, the overall success of the

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

<sup>5</sup> An Anglophone is defined as someone, regardless of ethnic origin or mother tongue, whose main written and spoken language is English.

<sup>6</sup> A Francophone is defined as someone, regardless of ethnic origin or mother tongue, whose main written and spoken language is French.

<sup>7</sup> As per [Statistics Canada's 2006 Census](#), 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.

<sup>8</sup> As specified in section 1.1 of these guidelines.

film(s), and the percentage share of the applicant in such film(s)<sup>9</sup>. Telefilm will take into account the total available Program funding in order to determine each applicant's available level of funding.<sup>10</sup>

Targeted group projects will not be treated automatically, but will be selected as specified in section 2.2 below. Applications will be processed on the submitted portfolio as a whole, rather than by individual projects within the portfolio, with the exception of submissions for targeted groups which will be evaluated separately.

Further, each year Telefilm will set aside a small reserve allocation in order to address exceptional circumstances and further meet the Program's objectives such as ensuring a diversity of genres, regions and viewpoints. Thus, if there are funds available and Telefilm determines that its overall portfolio is not sufficiently diversified, a second round of funding will take place to reach a balanced portfolio of projects. Telefilm will, for projects of equal quality, prioritize projects whose key creatives (director and/or writer and/or producer) reflect the diversity of Canada in terms of gender, Indigenous communities or cultural diversity.

## **2.2 Evaluation criteria for targeted group funding**

Applications for the funding of targeted groups will be evaluated individually on the following basis:

- 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 and company 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. Terms of funding**

Telefilm's funding will be in the form of a repayable advance to be reimbursed according to the contract that Telefilm and the applicant enter into, generally on the earlier of the first day of principal photography (or any other use of the script) or 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 project<sup>11</sup>, up to the total portfolio maximums set out below.

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<sup>9</sup> For further details, please see the [FAQ](#) section of Telefilm's Website.

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

<sup>11</sup> A detailed description of the eligible costs is available on Telefilm Canada's [website](#).

**Funding grid:**

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Maximum Funding amount per Category</b>	<b>Maximum number of Projects within Category</b>
<b>Regular Funding</b>	The amount determined by the applicant's total score	5
<b>Fast Track Companies<sup>12</sup> Funding</b>	\$200,000 <sup>13</sup>	5
<b>Targeted Group Funding</b>	An additional \$15,000 per targeted group	4 <sup>14</sup>

Applicants (including Fast Track stream applicants) may combine their funding access with targeted group funding (for a possible maximum of nine projects in their 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.

All payments from Telefilm will be made by direct deposit.

#### **4. 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 Program information details, please see the [FAQ](#) section of Telefilm's Website.

#### **5. General information**

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> In exceptional cases Telefilm may allow flexibility on the amount of the cap for Fast Track applicants.

<sup>14</sup> The allowable maximum of four projects from targeted groups may be comprised of no more than one project from the new talent group, and up to two projects from another specified targeted group.

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](#).