

Featuring Aboriginal Stories Program

Interim Initiative for the Development of Aboriginal Stories

For French language projects, the terms and requirements of the *Canada Feature Film Fund Guidelines – Development and Production Program For French-Language Productions* (selective development component) [the “Main French-Language Development Guidelines”] apply to this Interim Initiative except as such guidelines are specifically varied by these Interim Initiative guidelines.

For English language projects, the terms and requirements of the *Canada Feature Film Fund Guidelines – Development Program For English-Language Productions* (the “Main English-Language Development Guidelines”) apply to this Interim Initiative except as such guidelines are specifically varied by these Interim Initiative guidelines.

For Aboriginal language projects, depending on the choice of the applicant, either the terms and requirements of the Main French-Language Development Guidelines or the terms and requirements of the Main English-Language Development Guidelines apply to this Interim Initiative, except as such guidelines are specifically varied by these Interim Initiative guidelines.

1. ABORIGINAL STORIES

1.1 Spirit and Intent

The overall goal of the Canada Feature Film Fund (the “CFFF”) is to increase the Canadian theatrical box office for Canadian feature films. Development of a diverse portfolio of productions is an important strategy to achieving this goal. In addition to genre and cultural diversity, Telefilm Canada encourages diversity in feature film production by supporting a range of regions, companies and budgets. This Initiative seeks to build industry capacity in the Aboriginal communities and help increase access for Aboriginal creators to the CFFF main funding programs.

1.2 Objective and Expected Results

The objective of this initiative is to give Aboriginal writer-directors and producers working in Canada the opportunity to further pursue the development of market-driven feature film projects previously financed through the *Featuring Aboriginal Stories Program*.

By supporting the development of Aboriginal creators’ projects, Telefilm Canada expects to enhance skills within the industry, increase the number of feature film scripts and productions in this sub-market, and enhance creators’ access to mainstream production funding.

2. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To be eligible, applicants must (in addition to complying with the Eligible Applicant criteria of the Main English-Language Development Guidelines or Main French-Language Development Guidelines, as applicable), comply with the following criteria:

- Applicants must have received only one phase of development through the *Featuring Aboriginal Stories Program or Place aux histoires autochtones* between 2008 and 2011.
- For this Initiative, the French or English applicant from Quebec does not need to meet the eligibility criteria of the business policy “Producer Eligibility Procedure (Quebec Office)”.
- Applicants must be companies owned and controlled by eligible Aboriginal¹ producers or writer-directors.

3. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

To be eligible, projects must (in addition to complying with the Eligible Project criteria of the Main English-Language Development Guidelines or Main French-Language Development Guidelines, as applicable), comply with the following criteria:

- Be an English, French, or Aboriginal language fiction feature film project² that has received only one phase of development financing through the *Featuring Aboriginal Stories Program/Place aux histoires autochtones* between 2008 and 2011;
- Be a first draft or subsequent draft script; however, neither packaging nor Greenlight phases are eligible development phases under this initiative;
- Have a confirmed script editor on the project;
- Have an estimated production budget value of between \$250,000 and \$1,500,000;
- Be under Aboriginal³ and Canadian financial and creative control.

Applicants may submit a maximum of two projects under the Initiative. However, no more than one project per applicant would be accepted.

¹ 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 <http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census06/reference/dictionary/pop001.cfm>

² The intended production must be at least 75 minutes long. Projects destined primarily for the video or television markets are not eligible.

³ See footnote 1.

4. DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Telefilm encourages applicants to retain the services of a producer-consultant who is currently eligible under the *Canada Feature Film Fund* production guidelines.

Telefilm's financial participation will be up to 80% of the eligible costs, but not exceeding \$25,000 per phase or a maximum of \$30,000 per phase in the event an applicant hires a producer-consultant.

Telefilm's financial participation shall not exceed \$80,000 for combined scriptwriting phases.

5. SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Applicants must apply on or before 5:00 p.m., Monday, January 16, 2012.

Application and budget forms may be downloaded from [Telefilm Canada's Web site](#).

Application through eTelefilm is not available for this Initiative. Applicants must send their application form and Telefilm Canada's Standard Development Budget Template, duly completed with all required documentation, to the applicant's local Telefilm Canada office. Applications should be sent to the attention of the regional coordinators as listed on Telefilm Canada's website.

Applications from the Western provinces and the Territories must be directed to Telefilm Canada's office in Vancouver; applications from Ontario and Nunavut must be sent to the Toronto office; the Montreal office covers all French-language applications from across the country as well as English-language applications from Quebec; and the Atlantic Provinces are served by Telefilm Canada's Halifax office. The applicant must apply to the office described above based on where the applicant entity's head office is located.

6. SELECTION CRITERIA

Projects will be selected on the basis of the originality and creative qualities of the project as well as the feasibility of the estimated production budget size. Telefilm may also take into account whether or not applicants have retained producer-consultants.