
Canada Feature Film Fund

Development Program

**Initiative - For Quebec production companies located
in the regions**

French-language productions



1. Objective and intent

The primary objective of the Canada Feature Film Fund (the "CFFF") is to increase Canadian audiences for Canadian films. These guidelines (the "Guidelines") pertain to the initiative for Quebec production companies located in regions of the Quebec Regional Office (the "Initiative"). This Initiative, falls within the CFFF's regular development component but aims specifically to support the development of French-language projects by Quebec producers established outside the Montréal region. The goal is to raise the competitiveness of those producers so that they may eventually have access to the CFFF's Main Program for French-language productions (the "Main Program") as well as to private funding.

This Initiative will make it possible to fund the development of French-language feature-film projects in Phase 1, that is, from *outline* or *treatment* to *first draft*. Participants will have a maximum of six months to complete this development phase, after which they will have to submit a first draft of the project to Telefilm Canada.

In this way, Telefilm Canada intends to contribute to the development of the industry's skills while at the same time increasing the number of quality French-language projects submitted by producers established in the regions. Through this Initiative, Telefilm Canada also seeks to increase resources available for the development of regional projects.

Unless otherwise indicated in the following document, this Initiative is subject to all of the criteria, requirements and conditions of the CFFF Main Program for French-language productions, the [guidelines](#) for which are available on Telefilm Canada's website. The Guidelines specific to this Initiative are additional to those of the Main Program. In the event of inconsistency, the terms of these Guidelines shall prevail.

[Application forms](#) are also available Telefilm Canada's website. Telefilm Canada may make adjustments to the Guidelines and application forms as necessary and at its sole discretion.

While compliance with these Guidelines and the Main Program guidelines is a prerequisite to eligibility for funding, it does not guarantee access to Telefilm Canada funds. Telefilm Canada has full discretion in administering its programs and applying its guidelines to ensure that its funding goes to projects that respect the spirit and intent of these programs. In any question of interpretation of either these Guidelines or the spirit and intent of the Main Program, Telefilm Canada's interpretation shall prevail.

To better serve its clientele, Telefilm Canada has drafted a *Service Charter for Telefilm Canada's Clients*, available at www.telefilm.gc.ca/document/en/01/17/charter.pdf. This document provides information on the activities of all Telefilm Canada offices.

2. Eligible applicants

In addition to the eligibility criteria found in the Main Program guidelines, applicant companies must meet the following conditions:

- 1) must be headquartered in Quebec but outside Montréal (that is, 150 km or more from Montréal), and have done so for the last three (3) years or longer; AND
- 2) during the last four (4) years, must have completed French-language productions that were screened in theatres in Canada or broadcast in Canada. The total length of the

productions completed must be at least 90 minutes in duration, no matter the genre, including short films. In the case of dramas, the total length of the productions completed must be at least 60 minutes in duration; AND

3) Must hold full copyright in the submitted project.

Telefilm Canada may, within the framework of this Initiative, consider applications from producers who are not otherwise eligible for the CFFF by virtue of the business policy entitled *Telefilm Canada's Procedure for Determining Producer Eligibility for CFFF Funding at the Quebec Office*, available on Telefilm Canada's website at www.telefilm.gc.ca/03/39.asp?lang=en&. In this case, the applicant would be required to hire a producer-consultant who is currently eligible for the CFFF. The producer-consultant would be required to participate in the project throughout the entire stage of development for which funding has been granted, usually a period of approximately six (6) months.

In the event an applicant hires a producer-consultant, the applicant must provide a work plan that details the role and responsibilities of the producer-consultant, the terms of the working agreement, anticipated volume of work, and all the related costs.

The applicant shall agree to submit to Telefilm Canada a progress report according to the work plan with the producer-consultant after three (3) months and a final report after six (6) months.

The producer-consultant shall, among other things, be responsible for ensuring that, at the end of the six-month period of work with the applicant, the project has the necessary creative and qualitative characteristics required to be competitive within the framework of funding applications under the Main Program.

3. Eligible projects

In addition to the eligibility criteria found in the Main Program guidelines, projects must meet the following conditions.

- be a French-language fiction feature-film project of a minimum 75 minutes duration;
- have a production budget of more than \$1.25 million;
- be presented in the form of an outline or treatment.

Applicants may submit a maximum of two (2) projects. However, only one project per applicant may be funded.

Potential applicants should bear in mind, that if a project is rejected at one phase, it may not be resubmitted for that phase.¹ For example, a project rejected at Phase 1 in the CFFF development program cannot be resubmitted for this initiative. For more details, please refer to the section 4.1.5.1 of the CFFF development program [guidelines](#), for French-language productions.

¹ This applies to all Telefilm Canada programs, i.e., whether for projects submitted within the framework of the CFFF Main Program, the present call for projects, any other call for projects or any other program.

4. Eligible costs

Eligible costs are as follows:

All eligible development costs pertaining to Phase 1 of development, including the services of a producer-consultant, as specified in the Main Program guidelines. In the event an applicant hires a producer-consultant, the applicant may include the related costs in the development budget, up to a maximum of \$10,000. Applicants may obtain a copy of Telefilm Canada's standard development budget format for French-language productions on Telefilm Canada's website at www.telefilm.gc.ca.

Only Canadian costs are eligible. Any expenses committed or paid prior to submission of the application are not eligible.

5. Available funding and repayment

Telefilm Canada's financial participation will be provided in the form of non-interest-bearing advances, to a maximum of 60% of eligible Phase 1 development costs, including the services of a producer-consultant, but not exceeding \$20,000 per project, or \$25,000 per project in the event an applicant hires a producer-consultant.

Advances will be repayable as per the terms of the contract between Telefilm Canada and the producer, generally on the earlier of a) the first day of principal photography, or any other use of the script, or b) the sale, transfer, assignment or other disposition of the rights to the script.

6. Evaluation process

Eligible projects will be evaluated by a selection committee that will recommend a selection of projects to Telefilm Canada. The selection committee will be comprised of members from the various regions of Quebec, as well as Telefilm Canada representatives. Members of the committee must comply with the [Policy Regarding Telefilm Jurors](#) concerning conflict of interest and will not be able to participate in the evaluation process if they are associated with any of the projects under evaluation. Whenever possible, the committee will strive to recommend to Telefilm Canada a selection of projects that represent different regions, in the aim of ensuring that there is a diversity of projects and that all regions are more or less represented. Telefilm Canada will make the final selection of projects, taking account of the selection committee's recommendations as well as the production company's and the screenwriter's track records.

The selection committee will assess projects according to the following criteria:

- ⇒ originality and quality of creative elements;
- ⇒ success potential in the Canadian market and in international markets;
- ⇒ feasibility of the project given the budgetary parameters submitted;
- ⇒ if applicable, the quality of the work plan submitted in connection with the hiring of a producer-consultant, and the producer-consultant's track record.

7. Required Documents

In addition to the CFFF development funding application form and Telefilm Canada's standard development budget for French-language productions, applicants must submit the following documents:

- a project summary (maximum of 15 lines), and the outline (10 to 15 pages) or treatment (25 to 30 pages);
- producer's and screenwriter's curriculum vitae;
- if applicable, the producer-consultant's curriculum vitae and letter of agreement (the letter is conditional upon the project being selected); work plan with the producer-consultant.

Telefilm Canada reserves the right to request any other document it may deem relevant.

8. Submitting an application

Please visit Telefilm Canada's Web site for specific [project application deadlines](#).