

Slate Development

Guidelines 2025/26



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Slate Development Program Guidelines 2025/26

The **Slate Development Program** is designed to support the company growth of mid-level and experienced B.C. based production companies who have a significant track record of owned and controlled independent production in the province. Recipients will receive a modest grant to support the development costs of two (2) to five (5) scripted television or feature film projects, as well as capacity-building initiatives within their company.

Eligible Project Types: Scripted television series (including limited series) and feature film projects.

Funding Per Applicant: Up to **\$50,000**

Overall Funding Envelope Available: Up to **\$475,000** will be committed.

Decision Process: Competitive, informed by an external advisory panel.

Deadline to Apply: August 13, 2025, at 4:00pm PT

Rounds of Funding:

| Funding Round | Fiscal Year | Applications Open | Applications Close |
|---------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Round 1 | FY2021/22 | December 15, 2021 | January 22, 2022 |
| Round 2 | FY2023/24 | February 5, 2024 | March 4, 2024 |
| Round 3 | FY2024/25 | November 14, 2024 | December 19, 2024 |
| Round 4 | FY2025/26 | July 16, 2025 | August 13, 2025 |

Round 4 is the final confirmed round of funding under the current commitment from the Province of BC via the Domestic Motion Picture Fund. Future rounds have not yet been confirmed. Please subscribe to [Creative BC Newsletter](#) to stay informed about program announcements.

Please note, it is strongly recommended to review guidelines and application packages prior to submitting any application, as there may be updates or changes to each funding round.

Aims + Objectives

- Support B.C. owned and controlled companies developing intellectual property (IP) that they control.
- Encourage company growth for mid-level and experienced producers beyond project-by-project funding.
- Enable the development of bold and innovative work that will attract investment from national and international broadcasters, distributors and/or streaming platform decision makers.
- Support diverse voices that are historically and systemically excluded and critical to a vibrant and equitable industry.

Applicant Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following requirements to apply:

- Be a company incorporated in British Columbia or Canada with its head office in British Columbia. (Note: Companies extra-provincially registered in B.C. are not eligible.)
- The majority of the common interest voting shares of the company must be held by B.C. residents¹.
- Their primary business is the creation of motion picture audiovisual content.
- They, and any related or associated parties, must be in good standing with Creative BC.
- Further, the applicant or the company must demonstrate in the past 5 years EITHER:
 - a minimum B.C. owned and controlled production spend of \$1 million in the province, OR
 - have produced a minimum of 2 completed B.C. owned and controlled film or television productions that have been released theatrically, broadcast on television (including but not limited to VOD services such as Gem, Crave, Netflix, Amazon Prime or Disney+) or played at internationally recognized film festivals.

Keep in mind the above eligibility requirements are minimum thresholds and do not guarantee support.

Please note that companies who received Slate Development funding in the 2024/25 funding round (Round 3) are NOT eligible to apply for this round (Round 4).

Companies with previous slate development commitments still in progress are NOT eligible to apply for this round.

Companies who received Slate Development funding in Round 1 and Round 2 are eligible to apply if they have closed their previous commitments and are able to provide written proof demonstrating how the previous funding received supported overall company growth and how this additional funding will continue to do so.

Targeted Funding

Creative BC acknowledges that there have been historical barriers to access, and that supporting diverse talent is crucial to a vibrant and thriving industry. Therefore, a minimum 30% of the available Slate Development funding envelope is targeted to companies which have a majority ownership (minimum 51%) by individuals who self-identify in one or more of the following systemically excluded groups: Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+, Women, Non-binary, or people with disabilities.

To confirm you are from a systemically excluded group, during the application process you must actively self-declare within one or more of the following groups: Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+, Women, Non-binary, or people with disabilities.

¹ BC residency is defined as either a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident who has resided in B.C. for at least 200 of the 365 days prior to application and have filed income tax returns in B.C. for the taxation year prior to the application.

Slate Eligibility

At the time of application, companies will provide a snapshot of their development slate for the upcoming year, including select projects they may not yet have the rights to develop but intend to procure with Creative BC Slate Development funds. Projects on the company slate, regardless of project type, should be included, so Creative BC has a full picture of their development plans.

Furthermore, companies will need to identify which specific projects the potential funding will be spent on at the time of the application.

No other financing or market support needs to be attached to the projects proposed in the slate, however, any confirmed financing sources will weigh favourably in the evaluation. Similarly, letters of interest from the market are greatly encouraged to support the competitiveness of your application.

Note: Creative BC recognizes that support for scripted television series from B.C. companies is critical and historically difficult to fund, and therefore one of the aims of this program is to provide extra support for this underfunded production type. Therefore, priority in the evaluation process will be given to companies that demonstrate previous scripted television production experience and/or have multiple scripted television series on their development slate.

- Company development slates **MUST have a minimum of two projects listed**.
- At the time of application, companies must specify a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of five (5) projects intended for Creative BC Slate Development support.
- At least one of the projects earmarked for Creative BC Slate Development support **MUST be a scripted television series** intended for broadcast or streaming / VOD platforms.
- Other projects can include documentary series, reality television², and scripted or documentary feature films for theatrical release, broadcast, streaming or VOD platforms.
- Projects listed in the company development slate must be 100% owned and controlled / optioned (or *intended to be optioned* should the application be successful), by the applicant for a minimum of 12 months.
- Projects listed in the company development slate must also be under the financial and creative control of the applicant (exceptions available for inter-provincial co-productions and international treaty co-productions).³
- Projects listed in the company development slate must be intended to be produced in B.C.

² Based off the CRTC's Program Categories, Reality Television refers to programs that present unscripted dramatic or humorous situations, document actual events and typically feature ordinary people instead of professional actors. This type of programming involves passively following individuals as they go about their daily personal and professional activities. Though unscripted, this programming may be directed and may resemble a soap opera – hence the popular references to “docusoaps” and “docudramas.” Though this type of programming may be factual, it lacks or has very minimal amounts of in-depth critical analysis of a specific subject or point of view that is the key defining element of category.

³ In the case of an inter-provincial co-production, a minimum of 51% of the project must be owned by the B.C. applicant. In the case of an International Treaty Co-Production, Creative BC will follow the minimum guidelines laid out in the governing treaty, but generally, cannot be less than 20% of the ownership of the project. In either case, the B.C. applicants' creative and financial control must be commensurate to their copyright or ownership in the project.

The following projects are NOT eligible for spending:

- Web-series.
- Short Films.
- Excluded productions as defined by the Film & Television Tax Credit Regulations including, but not limited to: pornography, talk shows, news, live sports events, game shows, and advertising.
- Projects currently supported through other Creative BC funding programs for the same stage of development.

Eligible Costs

SLATE DEVELOPMENT SPENDING

A range of development phase costs for the projects being proposed in the slate are eligible:

- Acquisition of rights or optioning fees.
- Script writing (all phases) and script workshopping.
- Production of a demo, storyboards or animatic.
- Pre-production planning, finance packaging and/or casting.
- Business affairs and legal services associated with the above activities.
- Producer fees and corporate overhead (up to a combined total of 40% of development costs).
- Marketing and travel expenses related to securing market support or further financing.
- Company capacity-building activities that encompass a range of strategic growth initiatives. These may include, but are not limited to:
 - Hiring key professionals such as a corporate lawyer, business affairs consultant, or accountant.
 - Engaging a producer mentor, coach, or advisor for guidance and expertise.
 - Bringing on executive support, such as a development producer or specialists to address marketing and human resources needs.
 - Conducting company-wide training or workshops focused on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDDI) tactics, leadership development, or sustainable filmmaking practices.

Creative BC will not finance costs retroactively that were incurred prior to contracting.

Application Procedures

Applicants will be asked to complete an online application form that includes:

- Company information, including shareholders' and directors' filmography.
- An overview of the company's previously completed work that satisfies the minimum eligibility which should cover company track record and previous performance.
- Basic information for each project on your current slate.

- A high-level proposed budget outlining the activities for each project intended to receive Creative BC Slate Development support, including any related party transactions⁴.
- Slate Development Business Plan (max 6 pages) detailing the vision and growth strategy, business opportunity, and market analysis including target partners and audiences, as well as a business plan to support the growth strategy of the company. This plan should cover:
 - Short description of your company’s and key director’s or shareholder’s track record and previous performance.
 - Articulation of your company’s creative vision, business goals, and commitment to growing independent production in B.C.
 - Describe your company growth plan and how this program will help you get there. Outline goals and illustrate the steps your company plans to take to achieve this growth. For example, will this funding enable your company to foster strategic partnerships, strengthen relationships, or create specific opportunities for your company to grow? How would the Slate Development funding enable this progress? Be as specific and strategic as possible, detailing the proposed pathway forward and referring to specific project development and capacity building activities where applicable.
 - How you currently engage with and will foster B.C. based talent.
 - A statement of diversity, inclusion and gender parity across your Slate, particularly regarding key creative positions. Demonstrate how this is authentically being met within your current operations and future plans.
 - Specifics in how you intend to reach the target distribution and audience goals for the projects in your Slate over the coming year. Provide detail around existing relationships and/or how you plan to foster new ones and specify how these relationships will help you reach your business goals.

Please note the importance of the business plan document and the significance of the weight this document carries in the Evaluation Matrix. Having a clear, strategic and well-defined business plan that specifically demonstrates how the funding would enable your business to grow is critical to competitiveness and success in this program.

A checklist is available on our website to guide you through the application process.

The application form will be available as of **Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 4:00PM PT**. Applications are due by **Wednesday, August 13, 2025, 2024, at 4:00PM PT**.

If you are a person with a disability who requires accommodation or additional support in the application process, we are here to help. Please contact the Program Analyst.

Program Evaluation

We anticipate it will take a minimum of 11 weeks from the application close date to evaluate all applications.

See the evaluation matrix on our website for a full breakdown.

⁴ Related parties are defined as shareholders of the applicant company or their parent or subsidiary company; members of the shareholders immediate family (spouse, child) and management and employees of the shareholder company, parent or subsidiary company.

The competitive review will involve Creative BC staff as well as an advisory panel comprised of external industry professionals who represent a variety of backgrounds and relevant areas of expertise. Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of the application materials, any advisory members will be carefully vetted for conflict of interest.

Funding Decisions

From the advisory panel recommendations, Creative BC will ensure an equitable distribution of funds is met before finalizing decisions.

All decisions are final and will be confirmed via email. When a project is unsuccessful in its application, feedback can be provided, upon request.

Appeal Process

Creative BC does not offer any form of appeal process for this program. Eligible applicants are welcome to apply for subsequent funding rounds.

Please note that all funding decisions are final.

Terms of Funding

CONDITIONAL COMMITMENT

Successful companies will receive a conditional commitment that must be fulfilled prior to contracting. This includes but is not limited to the submission of Financing Agreements, Chain of Title Certificates and Documents, and updated development budgets.

CONTRACTING AND DRAWDOWNS

Final deliverables will include a report on the outcomes of the project development work, project phase cost reports, and receipts for final costs. Following receipt of the final deliverables, Creative BC will from time-to-time request written updates on the outcomes of projects and subsequent activities.

All deliverables must be submitted by the completion date noted in the contract, or the applicant will be placed in default.

Advance of Funds

The advance of funds (the “Advance”) is non recoupable (except as noted below under Forfeiture and Default and within the Agreement) and will be released through one drawdown if the Creative BC commitment is \$5,000 or less; and if the Creative BC commitment is over \$5,000, over two drawdowns (75% and 25% of the Advance, respectively), according to the conditions laid out in the Agreement.

Respectful Workplace + Client and Partner Code of Conduct

As a catalyst for, and investor in B.C.’s creative industries, Creative BC is committed to supporting a healthy ecosystem that thrives in a culture of mutual respect, dignity and inclusivity that is free from any form of harassment, discrimination, and violence. All companies that work with, or seek funding from, Creative BC are expected to adhere to [Creative BC’s Code of Conduct for Clients, Partners, and Stakeholders](#), implement policies and procedures for a harassment-free workplace, and comply with relevant laws. Creative BC is a signatory of the [Creative Industries Code](#) and expects all applicants, recipients, and partners to also adhere to this Code of Conduct. [Learn more](#).

On Screen Protocols & Pathways

It is a requirement that all filmmakers read and adhere to the guidance provided in [ON SCREEN PROTOCOLS & PATHWAYS](#): A Media Production Guide to Working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Communities, Cultures, Concepts and Stories.

Being Seen | Black Screen Office

Creative BC supported the [Black Screen Office's "Being Seen – Directives for creating authentic and inclusive content"](#) study conducted to provide directives to everyone in the film, television and interactive digital media industries to help them commission, create and assess authentic content. We urge applicants to read and utilize this study as a tool to educate themselves, develop strategies for change, and enact real, systemic and long-lasting transformation.

Reel Green™

Sustainable production efforts in British Columbia were formalized in 2006 through the [Reel Green™ initiative](#), a resource centre with a collection of best practices to help productions reduce their environmental impacts and improve their overall environmental footprint.

Successful applicants must adhere to sustainable practices throughout the development process of their project and beyond. We also require successful applicants to take the [Climate and Sustainable Production Training course](#).

In alignment with the Government of Canada's commitment to net-zero emissions by, or before, 2050, successful applicants to this program will also be required to use industry level Carbon Calculators such as the [Green Production Guide Carbon Footprint Calculator](#) and/or the [Albert Carbon Footprint Calculator](#).

Forfeiture and Default

A completion date is noted on the Agreement by which all deliverables will be submitted. Should all materials not be provided by the completion date, the eligible applicant forfeits any outstanding drawdown amounts and the commitment will be reduced by this amount.

Should an eligible applicant be placed in default- according to the terms of the Agreement, this limits the applicant, its principals and any parent or subsidiary companies from accessing further funding from Creative BC. In addition, Creative BC reserves the right to request immediate repayment of any funds advanced.

Questions?

Make sure to review the FAQ and Application Checklist on our website. If you still have any questions about eligibility, or require additional supports to submit your application, please contact:

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