Production Program – Production Stream

Frequently Asked Questions

APPLICATION PROCESS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. **When are applications due?**

   Applications are due **Tuesday December 15 at 4:00pm PCT**. Incomplete applications or applications received after this date will not be accepted.

2. **Is there an application fee?**

   No application fee is required to apply.

3. **What types of projects can I apply with?**

   Applications will be accepted from:

   Scripted feature length films (minimum 75 minutes).
   Documentary one-offs (minimum 25 minutes).
   Documentary or Factual Series (minimum 25 minutes per episode).

4. **I have a scripted television series, can I apply?**

   No. Based on industry feedback and due to the unique needs and budget required to support the production of scripted series in a meaningful way, scripted series are not eligible to apply to this program.

   Creative BC currently does and will continue to look at ways to support scripted series, especially in early development (before a broadcaster is required) and through supports for market attendance to meet and attract broadcasters. Should a significant amount of additional funding be made available, this position will be reviewed.

5. **Do you accept applications for genre films?**

   All genres of feature length projects are welcome! This includes (but is not limited to) drama, comedy or animation, but can also be horror, thriller, or for children and youth.

6. **Do I need to have an incorporated company to apply?**

   No, you do not need an incorporated company at the time of application. Individuals can apply. Should an applicant be successful, they will need to incorporate before contracting can occur.

   If applying as an individual, the applicant MUST own the underlying copyright and ownership in the project. It cannot be owned or optioned to a production company.

   Further, the intention must be that should the application be successful, the primary applicant will remain the primary copyright owner of the project and majority shareholder in the production company set up. If ownership changes, that may impact the ability to move to contract, and the commitment may expire.

   Keep in mind that if you are an independent writer or director, viability and readiness to begin production is a key evaluation criteria. So, if you do not yet have a team assembled to realize the project, the project may be less competitive.

7. Do I need to have other financing attached to apply?

Round 9 intake is that this funding will focus on projects that have market support and are close to closing financing with at least 70% of financing confirmed.

While previous rounds of this program have not required confirmed third-party financing or market trigger at the time of application, this intake represents the final round as part of the current commitment from the provincial government as part of the Domestic Motion Picture Fund. Due to the timeliness of the funding, this round will prioritize projects that are close to closing financing.

8. I have a project with a co-producer from another province or country attached. Am I eligible to apply?

Inter-provincial or international co-productions are eligible to apply, provided they meet minimum thresholds of ownership and creative control.

In the case of an inter-provincial co-production, that is a minimum of 51% ownership/control by the BC co-producer. In the case of an international co-production, that is the minimum ownership/ control determined by the governing treaty between the two countries (usually at minimum 20% ownership).

Co-productions are encouraged to meet with Creative BC prior to their submission of an application to discuss eligibility. Please contact the Program Analyst to schedule a call.

9. My project will be produced/released in a language other than English. Is my project eligible?

Yes, Creative BC wishes to encourage greater diversity in all levels of production, and that includes the intended audience. Therefore, completed productions can be intended to release in languages other than English. If this is the case, subtitles in both official languages should be an intended cost.

Further, weight will be given in the evaluation criteria for projects where the primary language is a language other than English.

Make sure you are clear in your application and distribution plan materials what language(s) your project will be available in.

For ease of review, at this time we can only support applications submitted in English, including scripts.

10. My project will be released or broadcast in another country, but not in Canada. Am I eligible to apply?

At the time of application projects need to be intended for theatrical release, television broadcast or VOD streaming services in Canada, within 24 months of completion.

If the only distribution plan is to be released in a foreign country, the project will not be considered eligible. This is in line with the key aims for this program, which are to support both the production of B.C. owned and controlled IP, and to support commercially viable and culturally relevant projects which will resonate with Canadian audiences.

Foreign investments and distribution commitments help form a robust financing plan and speak to the viability of a project, so they are not discouraged, and will be considered positively in the evaluation process, however they cannot be the only source.

TARGETED FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

The Production Program is an open call for submissions, and anyone with an eligible project is encouraged to apply. However, Creative BC has committed that at least 30% of the funding envelope will go to projects led by emerging or systemically excluded filmmakers. The eligibility below pertains only to how we determine our emerging or systemically excluded status.

1. **How do you define an emerging filmmaker?**

   To apply as an emerging filmmaker, you cannot have more than one professional credit in the key role(s) you are applying as - director, writer and/or producer.

   Some examples of eligible emerging applicants:

   - You do not have any previous experience; this is your first professional project.
   - You could have some experience in the industry, working in other roles, but want to make the transition to lead a project for the first time.
   - You could have had success with a first project and be looking at getting your second project off the ground.
   - You could have multiple credits as a director but be applying with your first (or second) project as a producer.

2. **What do you mean by professional credit?**

   The spirit and intent of the emerging filmmaker definition is to find new and diverse voices, and provide support to people who, for the most part, have not benefited from the mainstream funding landscape.

   For the purposes of this program, a professional credit means a writer, director or producer credit on a project that:

   - Is completed outside of film school or an industry training opportunity;
   - Was financed using mainstream funding sources (such as Telefilm Canada, the CMF, broadcaster or online subscription services licensing etc.); and
   - Subsequently either played on a broadcaster or online subscription service, was released theatrically, or toured extensively through major film festivals.

   For the purposes of this program the following projects do NOT count as a professional credit:

   - Shorts.
   - Web-series.
   - Projects that were primarily self-financed (credit, loans, crowdfunding sources etc.)

   Review your past projects with this in mind to determine if you qualify as emerging – count only longer form completed projects that were financed by 3rd parties and had some sort of broadcast or distribution success. If there might be a question according to your IMDB listing or website, please indicate in your application which credits count as professional, and which ones don't (adding a line in your short bio is a great place to do this). This will greatly speed up the review period.

3. **How do you define an individual from an under-represented or systemically excluded group?**

   Creative BC recognizes that a number of different groups in Canada have faced historical barriers to media funding access, and their voices and stories are critical to a vibrant and dynamic industry.

For the purposes of this program, the different groups that fall under this are:

- Indigenous.
- Black.
- People of Colour.
- LGBTQ2S+.
- Women
- Non-binary
- People with disabilities

Applicants from within these systemically excluded seeking groups can be emerging or experienced.

4. **How do you determine if someone qualifies as emerging or systemically excluded?**

   Applicants will be required to declare their status during the application process.

   In the case of a company applicant, a majority of the company's ownership / controlling shares must be held by individuals who are emerging or from one of our targeted systemically excluded groups.

   To apply as an emerging applicant, you must declare that you do not have more than one professional credit according to our guidelines.

   To apply as an applicant from a systemically excluded group, you must self-declare within one or more of our key systemically excluded groups when completing the key personnel form.

   If Creative BC has questions about your declaration, they will reach out during the review process for more information.

5. **I qualify according to one of the two groups identified, but not everyone involved in key positions (writer/director/producer) does. Am I eligible to apply?**

   The intent of the targeted funding is to support work owned and controlled from emerging and underrepresented groups.

   Therefore at least 65% (or two-thirds) of the key creative team (anyone in the roles of writer, director or producer) must be considered emerging or underrepresented, in-line with how the lead applicant qualifies. Further, real creative and financial control of the project must rest with the primary applicant.

   Ensure that self-identification statements are submitted for each key creative team member (including the primary applicant!) and check the appropriate declaration questions.

   If Creative BC has questions about your declarations, they will reach out during the review process for more information.

6. **I am the producer of a project, and/or majority owner of a production company with ownership of the intended project. I do not qualify according to one of the two needs groups identified. However, my writer(s) and/or director(s) do. Is our project eligible to be considered as part of the targeted funding?**

   The intent of the targeted funding is to support work owned and controlled from emerging and systemically excluded groups.

   If the primary applicant does not qualify, then the project will not be considered eligible for the targeted funding.

Creative BC wishes to encourage greater representation at all levels of a project team. Weight will be given in the evaluation criteria for projects that include diverse members in any of the 3 key creative roles, even outside the targeted funding.

Ensure that self-identification statements are submitted for each key creative team member and check the appropriate declaration questions so that this weight can be taken into consideration.

ELIGIBLE BUDGET AND COSTS

1. **Do I need to include a budget? Do you have a template for that?**

   Yes, we need an overview of how you intend to spend the requested money; an intended cash budget with line items. At the time of application, we only require your budget top sheet. If we have questions during the review process, we may ask for a full budget.

   You are required to use the Telefilm Canada or Canada Media Fund budget templates. Links are available on our website.

   Your cash budget should match the financing plan you indicate in your application form. (So, if you indicate $500,000 in expenses, you need to include $500,000 of intending funding sources, whether confirmed or not).

2. **I have a great project idea, but I won't be shooting in BC (or my post production won't occur in B.C.) Am I still eligible?**

   It depends. Creative BC does not stipulate requirements about where the project shoots or completes its work.

   However, for scripted features, a minimum of 75% of the production expenditures must be incurred in B.C. and paid to B.C. resident individuals and/or B.C. owned and controlled companies for services rendered. For documentary projects, a minimum of 75% of the production expenditures must be paid to B.C. resident individuals and/or B.C. owned and controlled companies for services rendered.

   This is in line with requirements of accessing the Film Incentive B.C. tax credit. Make sure your intended costs meet this eligibility requirement.

   There are exceptions for inter-provincial or international co-productions. If this impacts you, contact us to discuss before submitting.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

1. **What should be part of a creative package?**

   A creative package is a creative overview of the project, sometimes referred to as a pitch deck. Every package will look a bit different, although a more visually dynamic document is highly encouraged. It does not need to be custom developed for this application.

   Generally, it should cover the following:

   - An outline of what the project is and what the story arc is. Include your story act structure (i.e., don't just present a cliffhanger as you would in marketing materials).

- Introduce the project characters or subjects.
- Share the visual look and feel (note if its inspiration or actual footage).
- Speak about what is unique about the project.
- Where and how it will be shot.
- A director's vision or personal statement, outlining their motivations, connections or intentions with the project.

2. What is a Community Engagement Plan?

A Community Engagement Plan is an opportunity for applicants to talk about their process of working with under-represented communities impacted by the production of their project. Appropriate engagement will depend on the content of the film, the knowledge of the team, and the territories and communities involved.

This is a tool to help answer questions during the review period about the filmmaker's approach to under-represented communities and potentially sensitive content. In most cases, decision makers want to see evidence that the applicant has considered the potential impact of their production and that they have a plan to work in ways that are collaborative and respectful of impacted communities. This is essential for any project especially that is based in, will shoot in, impacts or is intended for Indigenous communities, or deals with Indigenous themes and subject matter.

Plans will vary depending on the needs of the project and the communities involved, but can include:

- Involving community members in their creative team.
- Hiring advisors.
- Having counsellors on set.
- Hiring local crew.
- Entering into written agreements with communities.

Further guidance provided on the Indigenous Screen Office Protocols page.

If you are not sure if your application requires a Community Engagement Plan, reach out to the Project Manager.

3. What should be in the Audience, Marketing and Distribution Plan?

This is an opportunity for the applicant to outline their intended audience and how they plan to reach them, including distribution or exhibition plans. This will be dependent on the unique needs of each project, but can include:

- An overview of the target audience(s) for this project.
- What makes this project impactful, current and why it needs to be told now.
- Why this project will appeal to the target audience.
- Distribution and exhibition strategy, including either confirmed or intended broadcast or distribution partners.
- Festival release plans (if applicable).
- Marketing and outreach strategy to reach the target audience(s).

Be specific and succinct to the needs, goals and aims of your project. General statements such as "will be released via major festivals and then a broadcast window" is not enough. If a broadcast or distribution partner is already attached, they should be contributing to this plan.

4. May I submit my project for review to Creative BC prior to applying?

No, Creative BC is unable to provide feedback on your project in advance of applying. However, we are happy to answer any questions you might have about the application process and eligibility.