Production Program

Guidelines 2026/27

CREATIVE BC | BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Production Program Guidelines 2026/27

The Production Program will provide financial support to B.C.-based independent creators in the production of commercially ready and market viable longer form motion picture projects that reflect and enhance the cultural diversity of the province. This round also includes the post production Stream which aims to support the post production phase of eligible projects.

Eligible Project Types: Scripted feature length films, and documentary or factual one-offs or series.

Funding Per Project:

Program Stream	Funding Per Project
Production Stream	$50,000 to $200,000 per project, depending on the budget level (please see the Funding Available section below).
Post Production Stream	$20,000 to $50,000 for projects under the $2,000,000 budget level.

Targeted Funding: A minimum 30% of the available funding will be dedicated to projects creatively controlled by applicants that are emerging and/or are from systemically excluded groups, including Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+, Women, Non-binary and people with disabilities.

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

Deadline to Apply: December 15, 2026, at 4:00 PM PCT.

Previous Rounds of Funding:

Funding Round	Fiscal Year	Applications Open	Applications Close
Round 1	2021/22	June 22, 2021	July 26, 2021
Round 2	2022/23	April 1, 2022	April 27, 2022
Round 3	2023/24	August 21, 2023	October 2, 2023
Round 4	2023/24	January 16, 2024	February 20, 2024
Round 5	2024/25	October 4, 2024	November 8, 2024
Round 6	2024/25	February 6, 2025	March 20, 2025
Round 7	2025/26	August 1, 2025	August 29, 2025
Round 8	2026/27	March 23, 2026	April 20, 2026
Round 9	2026/27	November 18, 2026	December 15, 2026

Please note it is strongly recommended to review the current guidelines and application packages prior to submitting any application, for updates or changes to this round.

The most notable change to this 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.

Aims + Objectives

- Support the production of B.C. owned and controlled IP in the province.
- Support the creation of content that is commercially ready, speaks to and is engaging to Canadian and international audiences, and contributes to cultural excellence in B.C.
- Support projects that have market interest and are close to closing financing with at least 70% of financing confirmed.
- Support the post production activity of B.C. owned and controlled IP.
- Support new or diverse voices that are historically systemically excluded and critical to a vibrant and equitable industry.

Applicant Eligibility

Applications will be accepted from either individuals or production companies. Individuals applying must:

- Be a B.C. resident – either a Canadian citizen or a Permanent Resident – who has resided in British Columbia for at least 200 of the 365 days prior to the application, and
- Have filed income tax returns in B.C. for the taxation year prior to the application.

Companies applying must:

- Be an audiovisual company incorporated in British Columbia or Canada with its head office in British Columbia.
- The primary owner / majority common voting shareholder(s) of the applicant company must meet the individual criteria.

Whether applying as an individual or company:

- 100% of the copyright of the project must be owned, controlled, or optioned by the applicant (except for inter-provincial or international treaty co-productions).
- You must be in good standing with Creative BC.

In the case of an **inter-provincial** co-production:

- A minimum of 51% of the project must be owned by the B.C. applicant.
- Should a project be co-owned by two B.C. companies or individuals, it will count as 100% ownership and is eligible.

If the case of an **international** treaty co-production:

- Creative BC will follow the minimum guidelines laid out in the governing international treaty.
- The B.C. applicants' creative and financial control must be commensurate with their copyright or ownership in the project.

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.

Targeted Funding

Creative BC acknowledges that there have been historical barriers to access, and that supporting new and diverse talent is crucial to a vibrant and thriving industry. Therefore, a minimum 30% of the available envelope for this current Round will be dedicated for projects from emerging filmmakers and/or from one or more of the following systemically excluded groups: Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+, Women, Non-binary, or people with disabilities.

Projects that are considered for targeted funding meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be an individual or company where greater than 50% of the company's ownership / controlling shares are held by individuals, who are emerging or from one of our targeted systemically excluded groups.
- Real creative and financial control of the project must rest with this individual or company.
- At least two-thirds or 65% of the key creative team (anyone in the roles of writer, director, producer) must also qualify as the primary applicant does – either emerging or systemically excluded groups. Courtesy producer titles (such as: executive producer, associate producer or co-producer) roles will not be considered key creative team members.

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.

To confirm you are an emerging filmmaker, during the application process you must declare that you have no more than one (1) previous professional credit in the key role(s) you hold in the project: director, writer and/or producer.

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

- Was completed outside of film school or an industry training opportunity; or
- Was financed using mainstream funding sources (such as Telefilm Canada, the Canada Media Fund, 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.

Short films (under a broadcast ½ hour), web series and projects that were primarily self-financed (credit, loans, crowdfunding sources etc.) do not need to be counted as a professional credit.

Project Eligibility

Applications will be accepted for the following project types for both streams:

- Scripted feature length films – including (but not limited to) live action or animation (minimum 75 minutes in length).
- Documentary one-offs (minimum 25 minutes in length).
- Documentary or factual series (minimum 25 minutes per episode).

The following projects are NOT eligible to apply for both streams:

- Scripted television series (dramatic, comedy or animation).
- Web series
- Short films
- “Movies of the Week” (MOWs)
- 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, reality television,[1] and advertising.

Eligible projects for the **PRODUCTION STREAM** must be:

- Commencing principal photography within 12 months from the submission of the application.
- Submitted before principal photography has completed (and ideally before it has commenced).[2]
- For scripted feature length films: intended for theatrical release and/or streaming within 24 months of completion (exceptions allowed for projects at the ultra-low budget level).[3]
- For documentary or factual one-offs or series: intended for theatrical release and/or broadcast within 24 months (about 2 years) of completion (exceptions allowed for projects at the ultra-low budget level).
- Financially and creatively owned and controlled by the eligible applicant.
- Awarded (upon completion) a minimum of 6/10 in Canadian content certification.

Eligible projects for the **POST PRODUCTION STREAM** must be:

- For scripted feature length films, intended for theatrical release and/or streaming within 24 months (about 2 years) of completion (exceptions allowed for projects at the ultra-low budget level).[4]
- For documentary or factual one-offs or series, intended for theatrical release and/or broadcast within 24 months (about 2 years) of completion (exceptions allowed for projects at the ultra-low budget level).
- Financially and creatively owned and controlled by the eligible applicant.
- Awarded (upon completion) a minimum of 6/10 in Canadian content certification.

[1] 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

[2] Re-takes or pick-ups do not count as principal photography.

[3] For eligible projects with a budget of $500,000 or less, a robust festival and online release strategy will be acceptable, though applicants are encouraged to still pursue broadcast or distribution opportunities.

[4] For projects with a budget of $500,000 or less, a robust festival and online release strategy will be acceptable, though applicants are encouraged to still pursue broadcast or distribution opportunities.

Financial Participation

PRODUCTION STREAM

Maximum funding that can be requested is dependent on the project budget level:

BUDGET LEVEL (CAD)	CAN REQUEST UP TO
Projects with a budget of $2 million and over	$200,000
Projects with a budget of $500,001 - $1,999,999	$120,000
Projects $500,000 and under (Ultra Low Budget)	$50,000

Funding will be provided in the form of a non-recoupable grant.[5]

At the ultra-low budget level, the Creative BC contribution cannot represent more than 75% of the budget.

POST PRODUCTION STREAM

BUDGET LEVEL (CAD)	CAN REQUEST UP TO
Projects with a budget of $500,001 - $1,999,999	$50,000
Projects $500,000 and under (Ultra Low Budget)	$20,000

Applicants cannot apply for both streams with the same project within the same funding round.

Production Stream applicants and recipients are expected to fully budget for post production costs. Additional Creative BC Post production Stream funds should not be included in the financing plan when applying for the Production Stream.

However, in extenuating circumstances, recipients of the Production Program – Production Stream may be eligible to apply for subsequent funding rounds of the Post Production Stream.

Eligible Costs

Eligible activities for production costs will follow industry standards as set out by both the Canada Media Fund and Telefilm Canada, depending on the production type.

For both streams, proposed project expenses must be new costs incurred after the date of application is received at Creative BC.

A maximum 10% of the budget can be allocated for each of producer fees and overheads.

PRODUCTION STREAM

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 in B.C. (Exceptions allowed for inter-provincial or international co-productions and documentary productions).

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[5] Receiving a grant from Creative BC may affect the amount of federal or provincial tax credits that the producer is eligible to receive in connection with the production. It is recommended that potential applicants discuss this with a tax account professional and make sure receiving this grant is beneficial to their project.

POST PRODUCTION STREAM

For the Post Production Stream, at least 75% of post 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 in B.C. (Exceptions allowed for inter-provincial or international co-productions.)

Examples of eligible expenses for post production activity might include:

- Technology and facility expenses related to the project;
- Services of a post production supervisor;
- Special effects; and colour grading;
- Online edit, title creation;
- Music composition; Sound editing and mixing;
- Voice-over work, versioning; Mastering, output time and materials;
- Master copies and some screening formats (such as DCP);
- Translation and language support;
- Accessibility costs during post production;
- Please speak with the Program Analyst for any questions related to additional eligible expenses specific to your application.

EXCEPTION FOR DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTIONS

Exception for documentary productions only: 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. It is not required that those expenditures be incurred in B.C.

A NOTE ON CO-PRODUCTIONS

For both streams, the B.C. applicants' creative, financial, and technical control must be commensurate with their copyright or ownership in the project. For example, if the project is 30% B.C. owned, it is expected that at least 30% of the budget be spent in the province. Project activities for co-productions must occur within the co-producing countries.

Market Support/Third Party Financing

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.

Application Procedures

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

PRODUCTION STREAM

- Basic information on your project and company/partners.
- Financing plan and budget top sheet.

- A creative plan (max 10 pages), including director's vision, detailed story synopsis/arc, and character / subject profiles.
- If scripted, a full script with the selected scenes/pages noted for evaluation.
- An audience, marketing and distribution plan (max 5 pages).
- Employment estimates.
- A separate document providing Information on key creative team members (writer, director and producer) and relevant link to a project demo or key creative team members previous work (if applicable).
- A Community Engagement Plan (max 2 pages) and/or Letter of Support for projects that intend to shoot in or collaborate with under-represented communities, especially Indigenous communities. Additional guidance provided on the Indigenous Screen Office Protocols page.
- Production schedule, with key dates including pre-production, production, and post production.

POST PRODUCTION STREAM

- Basic information on your project and company/partners.
- Financing plan and budget top sheet with indication of BC expenditures.
- Detailed cost report to date.
- Rationale for the required post production support.
- A creative plan (max 10 pages), including director's vision, detailed story synopsis/arc, and character / subject profiles.
- If scripted, a full script with the selected scenes/pages noted for evaluation.
- An audience, marketing and distribution plan (max 5 pages).
- Employment estimates.
- A separate document providing Information on key creative team members (writer, director and producer) and relevant link to a project demo or key creative team members previous work (if applicable).
- A Community Engagement Plan (max 2 pages) and/or Letter of Support for projects that have shot in or collaborated with under-represented communities, especially Indigenous communities during the production phase. Additional guidance provided on the Indigenous Screen Office Protocols page.
- A detailed post production schedule.
- If available, a link to the rough cut (can be in early stage of a film, or one episode for a series).

A comprehensive checklist is available on our website to guide you through the application process. This checklist will be used as a reference during the evaluation, so we strongly encourage you to review it to ensure your submission includes all required information.

If there are any changes to the application after submission, applicants may update or revise their information and documentation via email, with a **maximum of one revision allowed prior to the application deadline.** Please note that this limit does not apply to updates regarding funding decisions from other funders.

Please note that whilst there are no restrictions on the number of submissions an applicant may submit. Applicants, along with their associated and related companies, are encouraged to choose and submit their strongest project.

If you require accommodation or additional support in the application process, we are here to help. Please contact the Program Analyst as soon as possible. We cannot assist with application improvement or project development. Please contact the team as early as possible and no later than December 1, 2026, to best support your needs.

Program Evaluation

We anticipate it will take a minimum of 14 weeks from the application close date to evaluate all submitted applications for funding.

Eligibility Review

An initial review of eligibility and missing documentation will be conducted by Creative BC staff. If documentation is missing, applicants will be informed and given a maximum 5 business days to submit outstanding documents. Following this, incomplete or ineligible applications will be withdrawn.

Creative Evaluation

We strongly encourage applicants to refer to the Evaluation Matrix for this funding program on our website for a full breakdown.

The review process will be selective and competitive, based on several factors that consider:

PRODUCTION STREAM

- the background and experience of the key creative team (or potential, in the case of emerging applicants).
- the creative package.
- project viability and readiness to proceed to production.
- the potential audience or commercial success and impact on B.C. owned and controlled IP production spend in the province.

POST PRODUCTION STREAM

- the background and experience of the key creative team (or potential, in the case of emerging applicants).
- the creative package.
- Demonstration of additional need in post production.
- the potential audience or commercial success and impact on B.C. owned and controlled IP production spend in the province.

Co-productions will also be evaluated based on their ability to enhance and promote B.C.'s Motion Picture industry, support industry development, and maximize potential investment.

Advisory Panels

Advisory panels composed of external experts will provide a score and rank for each project using the evaluation matrix. There will be at least two advisory panels – one for Scripted Feature Length content and another for Documentary or Factual content. Depending on the needs and volume of submissions, external readers may be engaged for an initial assessment to compile a shortlist for the advisory panels.

Advisory panelists and any external readers will be industry professionals that represent a cross-section of the key demographics of the province and the systemically excluded groups this program is targeting.

Additional documentation may be required during the evaluation period, including but not limited to confirmation of chain of title, details on company structure and ownership, any confirmed financing or sales agent/distribution interest, full budget and links to previous work. Creative BC will reach out if any of this information is needed.

Funding Decisions

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

A minimum of 30% of the funding allocation available for the current round will be targeted to projects owned and controlled by emerging filmmakers and/or individuals from our target systemically excluded groups: Indigenous, Black, People of Colour, LGBTQ2S+, Women, Non-binary and people with disabilities.

All decisions will be confirmed via email. When a project is unsuccessful in its application, a brief explanation can be provided, upon request. **Please note that all funding decisions are final.**

Terms of Funding

CLOSING FINANCING

Committed projects will have an initial **3 months** from the date of commitment to show proof of closed financing or risk the commitment expiring. Projects that can demonstrate within those 3 months that at least one additional third-party financier has confirmed (that are not tax credits), may be eligible to receive an extension of up to six months to close financing. Any funds from expired commitments will be released and rolled into the envelope for future intake periods.

CONTRACTING AND DRAWDOWNS

Applicants who apply as individuals will need to incorporate an eligible B.C. owned and controlled production company to produce the project by the time financing is locked and before contracting with Creative BC. The applicant will need to be the majority owner/common voting shareholder of this incorporated company.

Projects awarded funding will not move forward to contract until all chain of title, committed financing and a detailed production schedule is verified. Projects that cannot provide sufficient materials may not be able to move forward to contracting, and therefore may have their commitment expire.

Contracts will include a production timeline, payment schedule and specific deliverables, according to the project's specifics.

Final cost reports will follow industry best practices as established by Telefilm and the Canada Media Fund.

Use of Artificial Intelligence Technology

Applicants using Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology should refer to the Province of British Columbia's Draft artificial intelligence responsible use principles. Applicants should particularly consider how the principles of transparency, accountability, and fairness apply to their use of AI within this program.

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology must be disclosed and outlined in the application.

This applies to:

- The use of AI to prepare the application form and all supporting materials; and
- The use of AI in the creation of content or otherwise, for projects supported by Creative BC.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all applications and projects have access to all underlying rights including content that is created with the assistance of AI technology.

Creative BC views emerging technologies as potential tools to empower practitioners, not replace them, while remaining aware of their evolving legal, ethical, and cultural implications. Disclosure around the use of AI technology is required to understand how these technologies are being used and how they align with the Province of British Columbia's principles of use.

Creative BC does not use AI technology to evaluate applications and supporting materials.

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™ at Creative BC

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.

Application Limit

Projects that have received three (3) unsuccessful decisions in previous funding rounds of this program may not be resubmitted. However, in exceptional circumstances where a project has undergone significant changes, Creative BC may consider an exception. Please contact the Program Analyst to discuss further.

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.

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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