



CANADA
MEDIA FUND

FONDS DES MÉDIAS
DU CANADA

PERFORMANCE ENVELOPE PROGRAM GUIDELINES 2023-2024

Please be advised, in response to the disruption in Canada's screen-based industries caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there may be specific exceptions to the following Guidelines found in the [COVID-19 Flexibility Measures to CMF Programs - 2023-2024](#).

Please refer to that separate document to determine if there is any flexibility to the requirements, contribution amounts and policies listed herein.

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Interpretation, Application, Disclaimer, and other Important Information

These Guidelines are for the information and convenience of Applicants (as defined in section 3.1) to the Canada Media Fund (CMF). They provide an overview of the objectives of the CMF, the manner in which the CMF is administered, and information on typical administrative practices of the CMF. Compliance with these Guidelines is a prerequisite to eligibility for any CMF funding.

The CMF has full discretion in the administration of its Programs, and in the application of these Guidelines, to ensure funding is provided to those Projects that contribute to the fulfillment of its mandate. In all questions of interpretation of its Programs, Guidelines, Agreements and whether Applicants and/or Projects meet the spirit and intent of any CMF policy, the CMF interpretation shall prevail.

All Applicants and broadcasters (where relevant) must abide by the Accounting and Reporting Requirements (ARR) of the CMF and follow applicable business policies as created and amended from time to time. Business policies, including the ARR, may be found in Appendix B of these Guidelines and are also available from the CMF website at www.cmf-fmc.ca. Information included in Appendices A and B is an integral part of these Guidelines.

Projects that receive CMF funding in a given year are subject to the Guidelines and CMF policies in effect for that fiscal year. To be clear, changes to CMF Guidelines and/or policies made in a subsequent fiscal year will not apply retroactively, unless specifically stated. The CMF fiscal year is April 1 to March 31.

Please note: These Guidelines may be changed or modified as required, without notice. Please consult the CMF website at www.cmf-fmc.ca for the latest Guideline news and documentation.

Provision of Documentation

It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the CMF receives all relevant documentation and to update such documentation and information after a material change. The CMF may request other documentation and information conduct an assessment and evaluation of the project and, once assessed, to complete CMF file reviews. For the purposes of project assessment and evaluation, the CMF reserves the right to rely solely on the written and audiovisual materials initially submitted by the Applicant.

Failure to Comply

If an Applicant fails to comply with these Guidelines, as determined by the CMF, then the CMF may refuse the application, revoke the eligibility status of the Applicant's Project and may demand repayment of any sums paid to the Applicant.

Misrepresentation

If, at any time, an Applicant, as required by the Guidelines or as requested by the CMF, provides false information or omits material information in connection with an Application, the Applicant may suffer serious consequences. These may include, among other outcomes:

- Loss of eligibility for funding of the current Project;
- Loss of eligibility for funding of future Projects;
- Repayment of any funds already advanced, with interest; and/or
- Criminal prosecution, in the case of fraud.

These measures may be imposed not only on the Applicant but also on related, associated and affiliated companies and individuals (as determined by the CMF at its sole discretion). Any Applicant receiving approval for funding will be required to sign a legally enforceable agreement, which includes further provisions concerning misrepresentations, defaults, and related matters.

PERSONA-ID self-identification information

The PERSONA-ID self-identification allows individuals to disclose their demographic information directly and securely to the Canada Media Fund (CMF).

The CMF shall rely solely on the self-identification information associated with each individual's PERSONA-ID number to determine (as applicable) eligibility for Programs, exclusive reserved portions of Program budgets, Performance and Development Envelope credit, Evaluation Grid points and/or for statistical and analytical purposes.

All PERSONA-ID self-identification information in connection with the Project is provided in accordance with the [Persona-ID Terms of Use & Privacy](#).

For more information about PERSONA-ID, please visit the [CMF's PERSONA-ID page](#).

2. HOW THE PERFORMANCE ENVELOPE PROGRAM WORKS

HOW TO READ THESE GUIDELINES

Projects in the Convergent Stream may involve both a Television Component and one or more Digital Media Components. The eligibility and technical requirements for these two Components may be very different. In these Guidelines, sections dealing with requirements for the Television Component use “.TV” in their section number, and sections dealing with requirements for the Digital Media Component use “.DM”. Sections dealing with requirements for the entire convergent project – i.e., the Television Component and, where applicable, the Digital Media Component – simply use a section number without “.TV” or “.DM”.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Performance Envelope Program, which forms part of the CMF’s Convergent Stream, allots funding envelope allocations to Canadian Broadcasters (see section 2.1.1), who are in the best position to decide which Projects could have the greatest market success. The envelope allocation mechanism enables the CMF to disburse funds in a timely, efficient, and market-driven manner in partnership with Canadian Broadcasters. Although envelope allocations are assigned to Canadian Broadcasters, CMF funding is disbursed directly to Applicants.

Eligible Projects (see section 3.2) in the Performance Envelope Program may be convergent, meaning they have an eligible Television Component (see section 3.2.TV) and can also have accompanying multi-platform content, including a Digital Media Component. The CMF contributes to Eligible Projects in this Program through Performance Envelope Allocations, which are allotments of CMF Program funds made to Canadian Broadcasters with a track record of supporting Canadian programming. Canadian Broadcasters select which Eligible Projects may receive funds from their Performance Envelope Allocation up to the limit of the funds allocated to them and subject to per-project Maximum Contribution amounts (see section 2.3.1) and other specified limitations. Canadian Broadcasters are free to use their Performance Envelope allocations to fund both eligible Television Components and Digital Media Components (see section 2.3.1). Canadian Broadcasters who do not have a Performance Envelope allocation may be eligible for the Alternative Access Allocation (see E.1.1 [Performance Envelope Manual](#)).

To be funded from a Performance Envelope Allocation, a Project must meet all eligibility and genre requirements under the CMF Guidelines. Projects must receive Eligible Licence Fees (see section 3.2.TV.5) that meet the applicable Licence Fee Threshold amount (and 3.2.TV.5.1). Maximum Contribution and Licence Fee Threshold amounts, as applicable, are calculated on a project’s Eligible Costs (see section 2.3.2).

If a Project’s financing is not confirmed in full prior to the Program’s Final Closing Date, documentation must be submitted with the Application as supporting evidence of:

- Performance Envelope contributions and all licence fees contributing to the Licence Fee Threshold; and
- Confirmation of a minimum of 60% of total Canadian financing for the Project (accompanied by a viable financing plan for the remainder of the project funding).

The Applicant must confirm 100% of the financing of the Project, supported by signed agreements, no later than the Program’s Final Closing Date.

Finally, Canadian Broadcasters are required to direct a minimum percentage of their respective Performance Envelope allocation dollars to Projects where a designated percentage of key creative roles are held by individuals that identify as women (see section C.2.7 of the [Performance Envelope Manual](#)).

For information on the administration of Performance Envelopes, including Performance Envelope calculation methodology, genre allocations and flexibility, transfer policies, and other information, please see the [Performance Envelope Manual](#) available on the CMF's website at www.cmf-fmc.ca.

2.1.1 Definitions Applicable to the Performance Envelope Program: Canadian Broadcaster, Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming, In-house Programming, Diverse Community Project and Regional Production

Canadian Broadcaster

Any of the following will be considered a "Canadian Broadcaster":

- a. A Canadian programming undertaking, public or private, licensed¹ to operate by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC);
- b. An online service² owned, controlled and operated by a Canadian CRTC-licensed programming undertaking;
- c. An online service³ owned, controlled and operated by a Canadian broadcasting distribution undertaking ("BDU"), licensed to operate by the CRTC; and
- d. CRTC-licensed VOD services.

Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming

A broadcaster-affiliated production company is an Applicant, as defined in section 3.1(1), that is affiliated with a Canadian Broadcaster (the CMF uses the definition of "Affiliate" set out in the Canada Business Corporations Act). Affiliated Programming covers Projects produced by a Canadian Broadcaster-affiliated production company and licensed by its affiliated Canadian Broadcaster(s).

In-house Programming

In-house Programming comprises Projects produced and owned by a Canadian Broadcaster.

Canadian Broadcasters are limited in the amount of their Performance Envelope they are permitted to commit to Affiliated Programming and In-house Programming. Canadian Broadcasters may commit up to 25% of their combined drama, documentary, children's and youth, variety and performing arts, and flex amounts to in-house and/or affiliated programming in those four genres.

Canadian Broadcasters whose combined corporate group Performance Envelope allocation is less than \$5 million and Educational Broadcasters are exempt from this limit (see section C.2.8 of the [Performance Envelope Manual](#)).

Diverse Community Project

A Diverse Community Project in this Program is a Project in which:

- Final control in all matters relating to the Applicant company⁴ and the Project
- AND
- at least 51% of the Applicant company's ownership and of the Project's copyright

are retained by a member (or members) of one (or a combination) of the Diverse Communities noted below.

¹This includes exempt broadcasters regulated by the CRTC via *Broadcasting Order CRTC 2015-88*.

²This includes services accessed via a set-top box.

³This includes services accessed via a set-top box.

⁴Including the Applicant company's Board of Directors.

For the purposes of the CMF's 2023-2024 Guidelines, the term "Diverse Community" refers to the following groups:

- a) Indigenous peoples to Canada (i.e., First Nations, Inuit and Métis);
- b) Racialized Communities (i.e., Black People and People of colour);
- c) Members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community; or
- d) Persons with disabilities/Disabled persons.

The CMF defines each of these groups in more detail in [Appendix A](#) of these Guidelines.

For clarity, the Diverse Community member (or members) of the Applicant company:

- i) Exercises full control of the creative, artistic, technical and financial aspects of the Television Component;
- ii) Has meaningfully participated in the Television Component's development.

Where the final control and central decision makers in both the Applicant company and the Project are not with the Diverse Community members from the Applicant company, the Project is not considered to be a Diverse Community Project. The CMF reserves the right to request additional documentation (including by-laws and articles of incorporation) to ensure the ownership and control provisions are met.

Regional Production

For the purposes of the Performance Envelope Program, "regions" are defined for English-language productions as any part of Canada more than 150 km by the shortest reasonable roadway route from Toronto, and for French-language productions as any part of Canada more than 150 km by the shortest reasonable roadway route from Montreal. The CMF defines a Regional Production as follows:

- a) The overwhelming majority of principal photography⁵ for the Television Component occurs in the regions, with suitable exceptions for documentaries.
- b) The Applicant is based in the regions (with its head office in the regions). The Applicant:
 - i) Exercises full control of the creative, artistic, technical and financial aspects of the Television Component, or, in the case of a regional/non-regional coproduction, the regional Applicant has such control in proportion to its copyright ownership.
 - ii) In the case of a regional/non-regional coproduction, the regional Applicant owns at least 51% of the copyright of the Television Component.
 - iii) In the case of a regional/non-regional coproduction, the regional Applicant shares equitably in fees payable to producers and corporate overhead.
 - iv) Initially owns and controls the distribution rights to the Television Component and retains an ongoing financial interest in the Television Component or, in the case of a regional/non-regional coproduction, the markets and potential revenues are shared equitably in proportion to the financial participation of each coproducer.
 - v) Has meaningfully participated in the Television Component's development.

⁵In the case of animated productions, this requirement will be interpreted to mean key animation activities carried out in the region.

Where the control and central decision makers in the Television Component are located outside of the regions, the project is not considered to be a Regional Production.

2.1.2 Applicable Language Category of the Television Component and Double Shoots

In the Performance Envelope Program, the CMF applies different Licence Fee Threshold amounts, Maximum Contribution amounts, Maximum Terms and other calculations depending on the original language of production of the Television Component of the Eligible Project.

Eligible Projects may receive contributions from both a French-language Performance Envelope allocation and an English-language Performance Envelope allocation. In such a case:

- a) Where a live-action project is simultaneously shot in English and French (a double shoot), the original language of production is considered both languages: English and French. As such, the Eligible Costs of the project will be divided so that two-thirds of the Eligible Costs represent the English-language portion and one-third the French-language portion. Each portion shall be subject to the Licence Fee Threshold and Maximum Contribution amounts of its respective language category. Consequently, the French- and English-language broadcasters' licences must each meet the Licence Fee Threshold requirements applicable to its respective portion of the Eligible Costs, and each Canadian Broadcaster shall be subject to the Maximum Contribution amounts applicable to that portion. Applicable Performance Envelope calculations will be based on the specific Eligible Costs portion to which they are related.
- b) In all other cases, the applicable language category is a single language determined by the original language of production of the project. Where a project is versioned into another language, the language into which the project was versioned is not the original language of production. For clarity, in the case of animated productions, the original language of production will be determined by which individual Canadian Broadcaster commits the highest Eligible Licence Fee to the project.

2.2 NATURE OF FUNDING CONTRIBUTION

The Performance Envelope Program may provide to the Eligible Project, a combination of licence fee top-ups and equity investments according to a set formula.

A licence fee top-up supplements a successful Applicant's Canadian Broadcaster cash licence fees. This type of contribution forms part of the Canadian Broadcaster's licence fee for the Eligible Project and is non-recoupable. An equity investment is a cash investment which results in the CMF acquiring an undivided copyright ownership interest in all versions of the Eligible Project. Equity investments are recoupable, and subject to a standard and non-negotiable recoupment schedule, as described and subject to, any exceptions in the CMF Standard Recoupment Policy (see [Appendix B](#)).

The first CMF contribution to the Eligible Project will be in the form of a licence fee top-up. This contribution may reach a maximum of 20% of the Project's Eligible Costs.

CMF contribution amounts in excess of this 20% maximum will be in the form of an equity investment up to the maximum amounts noted in 2.3.1 below (licence fee top-up and equity investment combined). The CMF considers an eligible equity investment request of less than \$100,000 too small for equity participation. Such requests will be automatically converted to a licence fee top-up.

CMF contributions may be combined in the financing of an Eligible Project from more than one Performance Envelope allocation. The total combined CMF contribution committed from all Performance Envelope allocations must respect any

applicable Maximum Contribution amounts and the total combined CMF contribution committed from all Performance Envelope allocations must respect the licence fee top-up and equity investment split described above.

2.3 AMOUNT OF FUNDING CONTRIBUTION

2.3.1 Performance Envelope Contribution

Canadian Broadcasters may decide what proportion of their Broadcaster Performance Envelope Allocation to allot to an Eligible Project up to the limit of the funds allocated to them and subject to per-project Maximum Contribution amounts and other specified limitations.

The CMF's Maximum Contribution in the Performance Envelope Program is as follows:

- All Canadian Broadcasters (other than educational broadcasters): 49% of the Eligible Project's Eligible Costs; and
- For educational Canadian Broadcasters only (Knowledge Network, Télé-Québec, TFO and TVO): 60%⁶ of the Eligible Project's Eligible Costs;

There are no minimum Performance Envelope allocation contribution amounts to an Eligible Project.

For audiovisual treaty coproductions, the CMF Maximum Contribution for the Eligible Project will be calculated on the lesser of the Eligible Costs of the Canadian portion of the Eligible Project's global budget and the Eligible Costs of the Canadian portion of the global final costs of the Eligible Project, as certified by Telefilm Canada's Business Affairs and Certification Department.

2.3.2 Eligible Costs

Eligible Costs are costs set out in the production budget for the Eligible Project or the final cost report as applicable (including both related-party and non-related-party costs) – plus costs the CMF considers necessary⁷ and minus costs the CMF considers excessive, inflated or unreasonable.

Beginning in 2023-2024, the CMF will allow reasonable costs related to environmentally-sustainable activities, practices and personnel connected to a project funded through this Program.

If applicable, Eligible DM Costs⁸ must be submitted as line item 85 within the Television Component's application budget and, along with the TV Component's Eligible Costs, will be treated as one set of Eligible Costs for the purposes of:

- the Applicant's Financing Agreement with the CMF;
- the ultimate ratio of licence fee top-up/equity investment provided by the CMF;
- the Licence Fee Threshold ("LFT") (section 3.2.TV.5.1); and
- the Maximum Contribution amounts (section 2.3.1).

⁶This allowance will not be available in situations where educational Canadian Broadcasters co-licence a project with non-educational Canadian Broadcasters.

⁷While gifts to the public are ineligible as marketing expenses per section 2.3.2.TV.2 below, gifts made to Indigenous communities recognized as cultural practice and referenced in the [On-Screen Protocols & Pathways Media Production Guide](#) will be accepted as Eligible Costs.

⁸Including budgeted upkeep and enhancement costs related to a period of up to 12 months after the launch of the Digital Media Component.

CMF participation is calculated on the Eligible Costs of a Project and assessment of a Project's Eligible Costs is at the CMF's sole discretion. The CMF estimates Eligible Costs at the time of application, based on budgets for the Project. Eligible Costs may include cost increases between budget and final costs approved by a Canadian Broadcaster contributing an Eligible Licence Fee but excludes increases which have not been so approved.

Additional CMF business policies relating to Eligible Costs are in [Appendix B](#) of these Guidelines.

2.3.2.1 Related-Party Transactions

All related-party fees, related-party allowances and any other related-party transactions must be:

- a) Disclosed to the CMF; and
- b) In accordance with the current CMF [Accounting and Reporting Requirements](#).

2.3.2.TV.1 Versioning

For TV Components licensed, or which will be licensed, for Canadian broadcast in the other official language (English or French, as applicable) – prior to delivery to the first window Canadian Broadcaster – the CMF requires all versioning (i.e., dubbing or subtitling) be performed in Canada using Canadian artists, actors, employees and technicians (as applicable). Exceptions may be made in the case of audiovisual treaty coproductions.

The CMF requires that versioning costs be included in the budget if it is required contractually by one of the TV Component's financiers. The CMF will not support versioning costs normally incurred by distributors to assist in foreign market sales through this Program.

2.3.2.TV.2 Marketing Expenses

Eligible Costs of the Eligible Project may include:

- Unit publicity expenses incurred during production (e.g., production photographs, hiring a publicist to arrange interviews);
- Attendance at national and international markets to generate sales or other revenues from the Eligible Project; and
- Submission/registration to a relevant awards show/event

The maximum allowable Eligible Projects' eligible marketing expenses shall be the lesser of 5% of Categories B+C of the production budget or \$400,000. In the case of eligible marketing expenses of \$10,000 or less, no budget percentage cap will be imposed.

All marketing expenses of the Eligible Project – including those related to the DM Component, if applicable – should be allocated to budget account # 70 in the production budget.

Non-eligible marketing costs include:

- Costs already financed or paid for by another financier or funding body;
- Wrap party;
- Crew or Cast gifts; and
- Gifts to the Public (e.g., t-shirts, mugs).

2.3.2.TV.3 Pilots and Series

Eligible Costs for a series may include costs related to enhancements to a previously produced pilot where the series is consequent to that pilot.

2.3.2.TV.4 Prizes

Any prize that is won, awarded, presented, or granted to individuals in connection with any CMF-funded production, in any genre, shall be an ineligible cost, even if such prize is deemed to be educational in nature.

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

3.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

An Eligible Applicant to the CMF is either a for-profit (i.e., a taxable Canadian corporation, within the meaning of Canada's *Income Tax Act*) production company or Canadian Broadcaster (defined in section 2.1.1 above) that:

- a) Is Canadian-controlled as determined in sections 26 to 28 of the *Investment Canada Act*.
- b) Has its head office in Canada.
- c) Is in good standing with all applicable talent and industry associations and guilds.
- d) Has affirmed and attested that the Project submitted for funding complies with the [CMF's Narrative Positioning Policy](#).

AND

- e) All individuals that own and control the Applicant company/Applicant Canadian Broadcaster have registered for a PERSONA-ID account(s) and have provided this account number as part of their Application.

Applicants must own and control all rights necessary to produce and exploit the Eligible Project. Entities that provide services but do not own applicable rights are not eligible to apply to the CMF.

Note: For the purposes of these Guidelines, the term Applicant includes all co-applicants, and/or all Related Parties (defined in [Appendix B](#)), associated, affiliated or parent companies and/or individuals (as determined by the CMF at its sole discretion), as applicable.

3.2 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

An "Eligible Project" in this Program is a project whose original language of production is English or French⁹ that meets all section 3.2 criteria and its subsections.

Beginning in 2023-2024, all live-action Eligible Projects with Eligible Costs over the following Eligible Cost thresholds must use a carbon calculator to track the carbon emissions generated by their Project:

- Drama: \$800,000 or more per hour
- Children & Youth and Variety and Performing Arts: \$750,000 or more per hour
- Documentary: \$400,000 per hour or more

3.2.TV The Television Component

A Television Component of an Eligible Project must be linear audiovisual content that meets the following requirements (that are further explained in this section):

- the CMF's Essential Requirements;

⁹For clarity, suitable exceptions will be made for Canadian Broadcasters with Performance Envelope allocations that broadcast in English and/or French and Indigenous-Canadian languages.

- the CMF's Genre requirements (as set out in [Appendix A](#));
- ownership and control requirements;
- miscellaneous requirements; and
- is in exchange for Eligible Licence Fees which meet the applicable Licence Fee Threshold.

3.2.TV.1 Essential Requirements

A Television Component must meet the Essential Requirements listed here. For a series (or mini-series, as applicable), the Essential Requirements apply to each episode of the cycle, even if all episodes are not submitted for CMF funding. The CMF solely decides whether a Television Component meets the Essential Requirements and its interpretation shall prevail.

- 1) The Television Component will be certified¹⁰ by the Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office (CAVCO) and has achieved 10/10 points (or the maximum number of points appropriate to the Television Component), as determined by the CMF using the CAVCO scale.

Note: For In-house Programming only, CRTC project certification as a "Canadian program" will be accepted in lieu of CAVCO certification for the purposes of meeting Essential Requirement #1.

- 2) Underlying rights are owned, and significantly and meaningfully developed, by Canadians.
- 3) The Television Component is shot and set primarily in Canada.

Further details on Essential Requirements and permissible genre-specific exceptions are in [Appendix A](#) of these Guidelines. This Appendix includes other important information and is an integral part of these Guidelines.

3.2.TV.1.1 Audiovisual Treaty Coproductions

With respect to the CMF- eligibility of audiovisual treaty coproductions, these Essential Requirements shall be interpreted so as to treat the treaty coproduction partner as "Canadian."

Accordingly, the term "Canadians" in Essential Requirement 2, and the term "Canada" in Essential Requirement 3 include the coproduction country. The 10/10 points referenced in Essential Requirement 1 must be attained by citizens of Canada or the coproducing country.

Notwithstanding the above, once a TV Component has received its preliminary recommendation from the Telefilm Canada's Business Affairs and Coproduction Department to be certified by CAVCO as an official audiovisual treaty coproduction, such project will not be required to meet the Essential Requirements listed herein.¹¹

For information on audiovisual treaty coproduction between Canada and other territories please see [Telefilm Canada's treaty coproduction guidelines](#).

¹⁰Exceptions may be granted by the CMF for exempt broadcasters regulated by the CRTC via *Broadcasting Order CRTC 2015-88*.

¹¹Should a TV Component receive a preliminary recommendation to be certified by the Telefilm's Business Affairs and Coproduction Department - but not ultimately receive audiovisual treaty coproduction certification by CAVCO - the failure of such TV Component to meet all applicable CMF eligibility criteria will be considered an event of default pursuant to the CMF Financing Agreement.

3.2.TV.2 Genres of Programming

The CMF supports the following genres: drama, documentary, children's and youth, and variety and performing arts. The CMF defines each in [Appendix A](#) of these Guidelines.

The following is a non-exhaustive list of genres and programming formats that are not eligible to apply to the CMF: sponsored productions¹², sports, news, game shows, current affairs, public affairs, lifestyle productions, "how-to" productions, reality television, instructional television, infomercials, music videos, formal or curriculum-based educational programs, foreign format buys without significant Canadian adaptation and creative contribution, magazine productions, talk shows, "talkshows culturels," non-cultural galas and award shows¹³, reporting and current events, religious programs, fundraising productions, benefits, tributes, promotional productions, pep rallies, travelogues and interstitials.

Note: Some flexibility exists for children's and youth programming. See [Appendix A](#) for more information.

3.2.TV.3 Canadian Ownership and Control

The Television Component must meet these criteria:

- a) It is under Canadian ownership and Canadian executive and creative control.
- b) It is under the financial control of Canadian citizens or permanent residents.
- c) It is, and has been, controlled creatively and financially by a Canadian production company during all phases of production, from development through post-production. Moreover, all distribution and exploitation rights are owned and initially controlled by a Canadian production company.
- d) Generally, no more than 49% of the production financing/final cost is provided by a single non-Canadian entity, person or related entity (via licence fees, distribution advances, goods and services and/or equity investment). Interim lending of more than 49%, however, may be provided by a non-Canadian arm's-length entity in the business of lending money and taking security.
- e) The Applicant retains and exercises all effective controls or approvals necessary for the production of the Project. This includes control and final approval of creative decisions and production financing, distribution and exploitation, and preparation and final approval of the budget, subject to reasonable and standard approval rights customarily required by arm's-length financial participants, including Canadian Broadcasters and distributors.
- f) The Applicant owns all rights (including copyright) and options necessary for the production and its distribution in Canada and abroad (with appropriate case-by-case exceptions for a purchased format) and retains an ongoing financial interest in the Television Component.

¹² The CMF will use the Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office's definition of "Advertising" in section 4.03.08 of the [Canadian Film or Video Tax Credit Application Guidelines](#) as its guide in interpreting the parameters of a "sponsored production".

¹³ Cultural award shows and galas that meet the CMF's Variety and Performing Arts definition shall be considered eligible programming.

3.2.TV.4 Miscellaneous Requirements

The Television Component must meet these criteria:

- a) It conforms to the Canadian Association of Broadcasters' (CAB) Code of Ethics and to all programming standards endorsed by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), including the CAB Violence Code and the CAB Equitable Portrayal Code.
- b) It is closed-captioned¹⁴ if it contains narrative, dialogue or lyrics. Exceptions may be permitted for Television Components targeting children under the age of five, Projects in Indigenous languages that do not use the Roman alphabet, and live-to-air productions.
- c) If applicable, it must be made meaningfully and coherently with the DM Component(s). What is meaningful and coherent in a particular instance will depend on the nature of the TV Component, the relative balance between the TV Component and DM Component(s) and whether the project provides a coherent experience which cumulatively augments the television viewer's engagement to the project as a whole. The CMF will decide on a case-by-case basis whether the Television Component was made meaningfully and coherently with the DM Component(s).
- d) It is a new production. A new production is one which is not substantially a repackaged version of a previously produced production. In the case of a series, the CMF will consider the entire cycle to determine if the project is a repackaging (e.g., some "making-of", "best-of" and/or "catch-up" episodes may be permitted). Television Components comprised mainly of stock footage may be new productions provided the footage is not merely repackaged in whole or large segments for the Television Component.
- e) Generally, the CMF expects a production to begin principal photography/key animation within the fiscal year in which it is funded or within three months thereafter. Special considerations may be made, for example, for TV Components that need to capture a time-sensitive event or ones that are required to commence production during the period in which the CMF is closed to funding applications (e.g., December to March).

Note: An Applicant commencing production before CMF funding is confirmed does so at its own risk.

- f) It, or any version of it, has not been broadcast/presented on any platform prior to its application for CMF funding.
- g) When working with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, cultures, concepts and stories, the CMF encourages all Applicants to respect the guiding principles and best practices set out in the [On-Screen Protocols & Pathways Media Production Guide](#).
- h) The CMF encourages all Applicants to implement more environmentally-sustainable practices and cleaner technologies – and reduce the use of unsustainable resources – in the development, production and exploitation of their Projects.

3.2.TV.5 Eligible Licence Fee Requirements and Conditions

The Television Component must, at application, have Eligible Licence Fees which meet the applicable Licence Fee Threshold (see section 3.2.TV.5.1).

¹⁴ As applicable, based on the respective platform.

Eligible Licence Fees are:

- a) Cash fees
- b) Paid by a Canadian Broadcaster
- c) To the CMF Applicant
- d) Which are in exchange for the Canadian Broadcast Right
- e) All of which is subject to one or more current, legally binding contract(s) – i.e., broadcast licence agreement(s)

Note: The CMF will consider the applicability of this section to In-house Programming on a case-by-case basis.

Aspects of an Eligible Licence Fee:

a) Cash Fees

Cash fees must be genuine, industry standard, fair market value and non-recoupable. Fees cannot include facilities, goods or services, equity, an Applicant time-buy, donations or corporate sponsorship monies negotiated and obtained by the Applicant, tax credits or any arrangement which, in the CMF's assessment, does not constitute a genuine cash licence fee. Fees cannot be reduced once the CMF has entered into a production financing agreement with the Applicant. The foregoing does not preclude a Canadian Broadcaster from contributing an equity investment, services, facilities, or other fees in addition to a cash Eligible Licence Fee.

In cases where the provision of a licence fee is wholly or partially dependent on a buyback of services from the licence fee provider, the CMF may elect to deduct the value of the services or facilities from the total value of the licence fee, for the purposes of determining Eligible Licence Fee amounts for Licence Fee Threshold assessment; this determination will be made on a case-by-case basis.

b) Canadian Broadcaster

A Canadian Broadcaster as defined in section 2.1.1 above.

c) Applicant to the CMF

See section 3.1. Eligible Licence Fees may be paid by the Canadian Broadcaster either directly to the Applicant, or indirectly via an intermediary Canadian corporation affiliated with both the Applicant and the Canadian Broadcaster.

d) Canadian Broadcast Right

The Canadian Broadcast Right is the right of a Canadian Broadcaster to broadcast and/or make the Television Component of the Eligible Project available on any broadcast and online platforms the Canadian Broadcaster owns, operates and controls in Canada in the language of the Broadcaster in question during the Maximum Term.

The Canadian Broadcast Right cannot include:

- i) Broadcast rights for non-Canadian territories.
- ii) Other Exploitation Rights (as detailed further below in section 3.2.TV.5.3) for Canadian or non-Canadian territories.

- iii) An ownership, profit, repayment or recoupment position in the Eligible Project.
- iv) Rights in excess of the Maximum Term as described at section 3.2.TV.5.2 below.

A broadcaster or an Eligible Distributor (as defined in the CMF Standard Recoupment Policy, see [Appendix B](#)) affiliated with the Canadian Broadcaster may acquire rights other than the Canadian Broadcast Right as long as those rights are not part of the rights being acquired in exchange for the Eligible Licence Fee. All such rights must be valued and paid for separately from the Eligible Licence Fee.

For clarity, regardless of whether the CMF has made an equity investment in a project, such Other Exploitation Rights (discussed further below in section 3.2.TV.5.3) shall only apply to the various subsidiary and ancillary exploitation rights of the project and not merely consist of additional access to revenue or recoupment to the Canadian Broadcast Right or Other Exploitation Rights themselves. Broadcasters may only recoup on exploitation revenues if they are making a financial investment in a project's financial structure.

e) The broadcast licence agreement terms and conditions

A broadcast licence agreement:

- i) Must include an unconditional commitment by the Canadian Broadcaster to broadcast and/or make the Television Component available to be viewed on any of the broadcast and online platforms the Canadian Broadcaster owns, operates and controls, in peak viewing hours¹⁵ and closed captioned¹⁶, within 18 months of completion and delivery of the TV Component¹⁷. Should the Canadian Broadcaster fail to comply with these requirements, the licence fee will be deemed not to be an Eligible Licence Fee. The CMF will consider requests for an extension to this period case by case. "Peak viewing hours" is defined by the CMF as 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm, with an exception for some Children's and Youth programming as described in [Appendix A](#). For second and subsequent window Broadcasters, the commitment to broadcast the Television Component in peak viewing hours (or, if applicable, make the Television Component available to be viewed) within 18 months will start at the beginning of those Broadcasters' licence periods.

Note: The CMF may waive the broadcast/availability requirement for pilots where both the Canadian Broadcaster and Applicant agree, upon completion and delivery of the Television Component, that the pilot should not be broadcast/or made available.

- ii) Cannot restrict the Applicant's ability to exploit non-Canadian broadcast rights, with the exception of traditional broadcast spill-over protections and exclusive world premiere rights. Where exclusive world premiere rights are taken by a broadcaster, licence agreements must provide for waiver of the world premiere rights if a bona fide sale to a foreign entity is made, provided the foreign entity agrees not to broadcast the program within six months of delivery to the Canadian Broadcaster. To be clear, a Broadcaster cannot hold world premiere rights longer than six months from delivery if a bona fide sale has been made to a foreign broadcaster.
- iii) Cannot include the acquisition of French-language rights by an English-language Canadian Broadcaster or of English-language rights by a French-language Canadian Broadcaster, with the exception of dual-language broadcast channels. The dual-language Canadian Broadcaster in such cases must specify to the CMF the licence fee paid for each language right acquired. No single-language licence shall prevent the exploitation of the other language rights by the Applicant.

¹⁵For clarity, a Project must meet the 'peak viewing hours' requirement only when the primary platform in the CMF's convergent criteria is a TV Component broadcast by an entity that meets section (a) of the "Canadian Broadcaster" definition in section 2.1.1.

¹⁶As applicable, based on the respective platform.

¹⁷For dual-language productions, this requirement shall be interpreted to mean 18-months from the first completed version.

- iv) Cannot confer upon the Canadian Broadcaster a right of last refusal for any rights other than additional broadcast windows for the currently licensed Television Component/cycle. This means a Canadian Broadcaster cannot acquire a right of last refusal for broadcast windows for future cycles or versions of the Television Component. Canadian Broadcasters may acquire the right of first negotiation and/or last refusal for additional broadcast windows for the currently licensed Television Component/cycle.
- v) For the purposes of series, cannot include co-terminus rights clauses. Co-terminus clauses (i.e., clauses that extend the terms of existing licences to the end of the term of the renewal licence with no additional payment) are prohibited in eligible licence agreements for renewed series, but these licences may include rights of first negotiation and/or last refusal for extension of licences for existing episodes of the series.

3.2.TV.5.1 Licence Fee Thresholds

A “Licence Fee Threshold” is the minimum amount of Eligible Licence Fees that an Eligible Project must receive from one or more Canadian Broadcasters to be eligible for CMF funding. The Licence Fee Threshold amounts for each genre are as follows:

DRAMA PROGRAMMING

LANGUAGE	PROJECT		
	TYPE	ELIGIBLE COSTS	LICENCE FEE THRESHOLD
ENGLISH	All Eligible Projects	Less than \$800,000 per hour	45% of Eligible Costs or \$315,000 per hour, whichever is less
	Series or one-offs	\$800,000 per hour or more	\$315,000 per hour
	Movies of the Week (MOW) and Mini-series	\$800,000 per hour to \$1,857,143 per hour	\$235,000 per hour
		More than \$1,857,143 per hour	12.5% of Eligible Costs
	Half-hour pilots	More than \$700,000 per half- hour	\$205,000 per half-hour
	1-hour pilots	More than \$1.75 million per hour	\$525,000 per hour
	Theatrically-released ¹⁸ Feature Films	All	5% of Eligible Costs or \$230,000 per project, whichever is less

¹⁸To be eligible for this Licence Fee Threshold Applicants are required to provide a distribution agreement from a distributor that meets the CMF’s definition of an Eligible Distributor (as defined in the CMF’s Standard Recoupment Policy in [Appendix B](#)) for the Canadian theatrical release of their Project as part of their application.

FRENCH	All Eligible Projects (excl. MOWs)	Less than \$250,000 per hour	50% of Eligible Costs
	All Eligible Projects (excl. MOWs)	\$250,000 per hour or more but less than \$800,000 per hour	23% of Eligible Costs
	All Eligible Projects (excl. MOWs)	\$800,000 per hour or more	20% of Eligible Costs or \$195K per hour, whichever is less
	Movies of the Week (MOW)	All	\$150,000 per project

VARIETY AND PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMMING

LANGUAGE	PROJECT		
	TYPE	ELIGIBLE COSTS	LICENCE FEE THRESHOLD
ENGLISH	Variety and Performing Arts	Less than \$750,000 per hour	40% of Eligible Costs or \$240,000 per hour, whichever is less
		\$750,000 or more per hour	\$240,000 per hour
FRENCH	Variety	Less than \$750,000 per hour	50% of Eligible Costs
		\$750,000 or more per hour	25% of Eligible Costs
	Performing Arts	All	20% of Eligible Costs

DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMING

LANGUAGE	PROJECT		
	TYPE	ELIGIBLE COSTS	LICENCE FEE THRESHOLD
ENGLISH	One-offs and mini-series (excluding feature length documentaries)	Less than \$400,000 per hour	30% of Eligible Costs or \$100,000 per hour, whichever is less
	Series	Less than \$400,000 per hour	40% of Eligible Costs or \$100,000 per hour, whichever is less
	All Eligible Projects (excl. feature-length documentaries)	\$400,000 and above	\$100,000 per hour
	Feature-length documentary	All	10% of Eligible Costs

FRENCH	All Eligible Projects (excl. feature-length documentaries)	Less than \$100,000 per hour	35% of Eligible Costs
	All Eligible Projects (excl. feature-length documentaries)	\$100,000 per hour to \$400,000 per hour	20% of Eligible Costs
	All Eligible Projects (excl. feature-length documentaries)	More than \$400,000 per hour	15% of Eligible Costs or \$60K per hour, whichever is less
	Feature-length documentary	All	10% of Eligible Costs

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING

LANGUAGE	PROJECT		
	TYPE	ELIGIBLE COSTS	LICENCE FEE THRESHOLD
ENGLISH	All Eligible Projects (excl. theatrically-released animated feature films)	Less than \$750,000 per hour	25% of Eligible Costs or \$160,000 per hour, whichever is less
	All Eligible Projects (excl. theatrically-released animated feature films)	\$750,000 or more per hour	\$160,000 per hour
	Theatrically-released ¹⁹ Animated Feature Films	All	5% of Eligible Costs or \$230,000 per project, whichever is less
FRENCH	Live-action Eligible Projects	less than \$750,000 per hour	35% of Eligible Costs
	Live-action Eligible Projects	\$750,000 or more per hour	15% of Eligible Costs
	Animation	All	10% of Eligible Costs
	Theatrically-released ²⁰ Animated Feature Films	All	5% of Eligible Costs or \$150,000 per project, whichever is less

For audiovisual treaty coproductions, the CMF Licence Fee Thresholds will be calculated on the Eligible Costs of the Canadian portion of the production's global budget as certified by Telefilm Canada's Business Affairs and Certification Department.

¹⁹To be eligible for this Licence Fee Threshold Applicants are required to provide a distribution agreement from a distributor that meets the CMF's definition of an Eligible Distributor (as defined in the CMF's Standard Recoupment Policy in [Appendix B](#)) for the Canadian theatrical release of their Project as part of their application.

²⁰To be eligible for this Licence Fee Threshold Applicants are required to provide a distribution agreement from a distributor that meets the CMF's definition of an Eligible Distributor (as defined in the CMF's Standard Recoupment Policy in [Appendix B](#)) for the Canadian theatrical release of their Project as part of their application.

The entirety of the Eligible Licence Fees contributing to meeting the Licence Fee Threshold must be used in the production financing of the Eligible Project.

3.2.TV.5.2 Licence Terms

The CMF shall assess the maximum allowable period of all broadcast windows granted in consideration for Eligible Licence Fees (Maximum Term). The Maximum Term for an Eligible Project, in the aggregate and including both exclusive and non-exclusive terms is:

- Children's and youth, documentary, and variety and performing arts: 6 years
- English-language drama: 7 years
- French-language drama: 5 years

The start of the licence term shall begin at the contractually agreed-upon term commencement date, as negotiated between the Applicant and the Canadian Broadcaster. The term is the period in which a Canadian Broadcaster has the right to exploit a program. In the case of a series (or mini-series, as applicable), the term is measured from the commencement date of the first episode of the series and not the commencement dates of each episode.

For clarity, the start of the term and the first air date may not always coincide. By way of example, a Canadian Broadcaster's term may be from September 1, 2023 to September 1, 2029, but the Broadcaster may choose to make the first broadcast date November 15, 2023. For eligibility purposes, the licence term begins on September 1, 2023. In no case will the term commence later than the first airing of the first episode.

Applicants can incorporate licences in excess of the Maximum Term within the financial structure. Only that portion of the licences, however, within the Maximum Term will be used for the purposes of all CMF calculations, including Licence Fee Threshold assessment, allowable Performance Envelope contributions and applicable Performance Envelope calculations. Licences that commence within the Maximum Term but extend beyond it will be pro-rated to match the Maximum Term set for each genre.

The Maximum Term does not apply to licences acquired by Canadian Broadcasters for Affiliated Programming and In-house Programming.

3.2.TV.5.3 Treatment of Other Exploitation Rights

All other rights that a Canadian Broadcaster chooses to acquire or to substantially restrict the Applicant from exploiting (in addition to the Canadian Broadcast Right outlined in 3.2.TV.5.d), must be separately identified and valued from the Canadian Broadcast Right). For clarity, if a particular right cannot be classified under the Canadian Broadcast Right definition, that right will be classified as an Other Exploitation Right.

Other Exploitation Rights include (but are not limited to) the following:

- i) Free Internet broadcast/distribution.
- ii) CRTC-licenced VOD
- iii) Paid Internet broadcast/distribution (including Subscription Video On Demand)
- iv) Mobile/wireless distribution.
- v) Electronic sell-through and/or digital rental.
- vi) DVD, Blu-ray, or other compact video device distribution.

- vii) Theatrical distribution.
- viii) Non-theatrical distribution (e.g., educational institutions and airlines).
- ix) Merchandising and ancillary rights.

All of the above-listed Other Exploitation Rights and any exploitation right which is not encompassed by the above, whether currently existing or developed in the future, shall be ascribed the meaning as commonly understood and in accordance with the standards of the television, digital media and communications industries. Canadian Broadcasters and Applicants are free to further delineate separate rights within or in addition to these categories, but the above list represents the minimum degree of distinct rights valuation in an eligible broadcast licence agreement.

All Other Exploitation Rights acquired by a Canadian Broadcaster must be subject to a “use it or lose it” provision that requires the Canadian Broadcaster to exploit the right(s) within 12 months of that Broadcaster’s first broadcast/premiere of the Television Component, failing which the rights revert to the Applicant without restriction. For Other Exploitation Rights not acquired by a Canadian Broadcaster the broadcast licence agreement cannot restrict the Applicant’s ability to exploit the Other Exploitation Rights for longer than 12 months from that Broadcaster’s first broadcast/premiere of the Television Component.

Where the CMF provides an equity investment to the Eligible Project, Other Exploitation Rights acquired by a Canadian Broadcaster must:

- a) Be exploited in accordance with the CMF’s Standard Recoupment Policy, with the Canadian Broadcaster acting as a distributor for the purposes of that policy. For rights under paragraphs i-v above only, the CMF may consider a 50/50 gross revenue sharing arrangement between the Applicant and the Canadian Broadcaster (or other arrangement that is no less preferable to the CMF than a 50/50 gross revenue share); or
- b) For rights under paragraphs i-iv above only, be paid for at a reasonable, fair-market value.

The CMF will apply this section in an adaptable and purposive manner, with the objectives of promoting transparency in the rights market, maximizing the availability of CMF-funded content on multiple platforms for the benefit of Canadian audiences, and maximizing the CMF’s return on investment when the CMF is an equity investor.

3.2.DM Digital Media Components

A Digital Media Component of an Eligible Project must be an audio²¹, audiovisual, multimedia, or interactive promotional project that:

- a) Is associated with and derived from the Television Component that is funded by the CMF;
- b) Is made available to the Canadian public by way of a digital network, including internet and mobile;
- c) Provides a coherent digital or social media experience to the audience before, during or after the broadcast of the Television Component, expands the television viewer’s experience beyond the Television Component and aims to augment engagement and discoverability towards the Television Component; and
- d) Meets either one or a mix of the following activities:
 - 1. Interactive or linear original content related to the Television Component but created specifically to be consumed on digital media platforms.

²¹For example, podcasts, audio books, smart speaker applications.

2. Promotion, marketing and discoverability activities and applications using digital and social media aimed at locating, leveraging or building audiences.
3. Interactive online activities or applications providing a synchronised experience during the broadcast of the Television Component.

3.2.DM.1 Canadian Content

A Digital Media Component must meet the following criteria:

- a) Its underlying rights are owned, and significantly and meaningfully developed, by Canadians.
- b) It is produced in Canada, with at least 75% of its Eligible Costs being Canadian costs.

Digital media coproductions are eligible if they comply with the [Framework for international digital media coproductions](#).

3.2.DM.2 Ineligible Content

The following is a non-exhaustive list of types of content that are not eligible as a Digital Media Component: industrial, corporate, or curriculum-based Projects, and system software.

3.2.DM.3 Canadian Ownership and Control

A Digital Media Component must meet the following criteria:

- a) It is under Canadian ownership and Canadian executive and creative control.
- b) It is under the financial control of Canadian citizens or permanent residents.
- c) The Applicant retains and exercises all effective controls or approvals necessary for the production of the Project.
- d) The Applicant owns all rights (including copyright) and options necessary for the production and distribution of the Digital Media project in Canada and abroad (with appropriate case-by-case exceptions for a purchased format), and retains an ongoing financial interest in the project.

Note: Interpretation of these criteria shall allow CMF access to international coproductions that have an acceptable degree of Canadian ownership and control. Digital media coproductions are eligible if they comply with the [Framework for international digital media coproduction](#).

3.2.DM.4 Broadcaster Financing

In cases where an Eligible Project contains a Digital Media Component, in exchange for the Eligible Project's applicable original digital content rights related to the DM Component, a Canadian Broadcaster's contribution to such DM Component will be included in the Licence Fee Threshold based on the total Eligible Costs of the Eligible Project as a whole (see section 2.3.2).

3.2.DM.5 Miscellaneous Requirements

A Digital Media Component:

- a) Must be made available to the Canadian public in a meaningful way. What is meaningful in a particular instance will depend on the nature of the DM Component and its distribution plan. The CMF will decide on a case-by-case basis, but unless there is an acceptable distribution/exploitation plan to the contrary, the CMF considers that making the DM Component available to the Canadian public for at least 3 months contemporaneously with the associated Television Component will be meaningful.
- b) It must be made meaningfully and coherently with the TV Component. What is meaningful and coherent in a particular instance will depend on the nature of the DM Component(s), the relative balance between the TV Component and DM Component(s) and whether the project provides a coherent experience which cumulatively augments the television viewer's engagement to the project as a whole. The CMF will decide on a case-by-case basis whether the Television Component was made meaningfully and coherently with the DM Component(s).
- c) Cannot contain elements of excessive violence, sexual violence, or sexual exploitation or elements which are obscene, indecent or child pornography within the meaning of the Criminal Code (as amended from time to time), or libellous or in any other way unlawful.