



**VERSIONING
PROGRAM
GUIDELINES
2020-2021**

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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 these Guidelines 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 the CMF receives all documentation relevant to its application, and to update such documentation and information after a material change. The CMF may request other documentation and information to 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 productions;
- Repayment of any funds already advanced, with interest;
- 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.

2. HOW THE VERSIONING 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 Versioning Program, part of the CMF’s Convergent Stream, strives to increase the reach of existing programming to Canadians through language versioning. Versioning also increases the revenue earned by Canadian producers through national and international sales.

The CMF contributes to Eligible Projects (see section 3.2) in the Versioning Program on a first come, first served basis until resources are depleted. Eligible Applicants may apply with a maximum of 10 Eligible Projects in the Versioning Program. In the event that a large number of Projects are submitted on the same date, creating oversubscription, the CMF may distribute funding to those Projects deemed eligible on a proportional (pro-rated) basis, designate how many submitted Projects (per applicant) will receive funding, or elect to distribute funding in some other equitable manner, to be determined in the CMF’s sole discretion. The CMF may contribute to Eligible Projects subject to specified Maximum Contribution amounts (see section 2.3.1) and other specified limitations. Maximum Contribution amounts are calculated a Project’s Eligible Costs (see section 2.3.2).

2.2 NATURE OF FUNDING CONTRIBUTION

Assistance will be provided in the form of a non-repayable contribution.

2.3 AMOUNT OF FUNDING CONTRIBUTION

2.3.1 CMF Contribution

2.3.1.TV CMF Contribution to the Television Component

The Maximum Contribution provided by the CMF shall be the lesser of 75% of the Television Component’s Eligible Costs or the amount stated in the following chart:

Television Component Versioning Expenses and Services

Drama	Children's and Youth	Animation	Documentary	Variety and Performing Arts
\$418/min.	\$418/min.	\$418/min.	\$180/min.	\$180/min.

For clarity, in order to ensure over-financing does not occur, the Broadcaster licence fee and/or financing from any other sources will also be taken into account when determining the CMF’s contribution.

2.3.1.DM CMF Contribution to the Digital Media Component

The Maximum Contribution provided by the CMF shall be 75% of the Digital Media Component's Eligible Costs.

2.3.2 Eligible Costs

Eligible Costs are the budgeted or final costs of the Project, as applicable (including both related-party and non-related party costs), plus any costs the CMF considers necessary, minus costs the CMF considers excessive, inflated or unreasonable.

Assessment of a Project's Eligible Costs shall be done at the CMF's sole discretion. The CMF estimates Eligible Costs at the time of application, based on the versioning budget for the Project.

Eligible Costs in this Program are versioning expenses and services carried out in Canada by qualified, private-sector companies, using Canadian artists, actors, employees and technicians (as applicable) and which were not included in the original language production budget.

Eligible Costs may include the Applicant's eligible distribution fees. Eligible distribution fees for producer Applicants are 15% of the Television Component's eligible broadcast licence fees or foreign sales contract(s). Eligible distribution fees for distributor Applicants are 30% of the Television Component's eligible broadcast licence fees or foreign sales contract(s). See section 3.2.TV.1 for more on eligible broadcast licence fees and foreign sales contracts.

In some cases, the CMF may finance secondary activities (i.e. minimal re-editing, adaptation of songs, etc.) indirectly related to the versioning of an Eligible Project but essential to the production. The CMF will evaluate such requests case-by-case.

Eligible Costs in this Program do not include items related to production. These should be included in the Project's original language production budget, and remain solely the responsibility of the producer.

The Applicant must provide a versioning budget which will:

- a) Define activities that constitute an Eligible Cost through this Program, including all tasks from the preproduction phase (receipt of material to be versioned) to the submission of the required version (final copy); and
- b) Identify costs for each required task. The budget also allows for reasonable administrative expenses incurred by the versioning company, up to 10% of the budget (with no pyramiding of fees allowed). In addition, the Applicant is allowed expenses incurred in coordinating the versioning process up to 5% of the budget or \$5,000, whichever is less.

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

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

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

3.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

An eligible Applicant to the CMF is either:

- 1) A company that:
 - a) Is for-profit: i.e., a taxable Canadian corporation, within the meaning of Canada's *Income Tax Act*;
 - b) Is Canadian-controlled as determined by sections 26 to 28 of the *Investment Canada Act*;
 - c) Has its head office in Canada; and
 - d) Is in good standing with all applicable talent and industry associations and guilds.

or

- 2) A Canadian Broadcaster (as defined by section 2.1.1 of the [Performance Envelope Guidelines](#)).

Where the Applicant is a distribution entity, it must hold distribution rights to the Project that is the subject of the application.

Note: For the purposes of these Guidelines, the term Applicant includes all coapplicants, and/or all related, 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 is a Television Component and/or a Digital Media Component that has received production financing support in any year from the Convergent Stream of the CMF. Funding may be provided for a Television Component alone, a Digital Media Component alone, or both Components together.

An Eligible Project must be completed in its original language to be eligible under the Versioning Program. The CMF will not usually contribute funding towards the versioning of a Project where there already exists a similar version of that Project in the same language for commercial release. The CMF may contribute towards the versioning of a Project that already exists in the target language where such versioning would improve its relevance to other markets. However, the work for this additional version must be carried out in Canada by qualified, private-sector companies, using Canadian artists, actors, employees and technicians (as applicable).

3.2.TV.1 Requirements for the Television Component

The Television Component must be completed in its original language to be eligible under the Versioning Program. In the case of a series, an episode of that series must be completed in its original language before the series can be submitted to the CMF in this Program.

Television Components must have either¹:

- a) A letter from a broadcaster committing to air the versioned production in Canada or abroad within one year of delivery. The letter must specify a broadcast licence fee, the market value of which must be fair and acceptable to the CMF and represent a minimum of 25% of the versioning budget.
- or
- b) A foreign sales contract, the market value of which is fair and acceptable to the CMF.

If one or more production financiers contractually require that the Project be versioned into a second language, then the cost of versioning that television program must be included in the original language production budget. In such cases, the Project is not eligible for versioning assistance in this Program.

In cases where an Applicant does not have exclusive distribution rights in all markets for a production, the Applicant must guarantee that the production versioned with the assistance of the CMF be made available either to the Canadian producer or to any distribution or foreign sales company appointed by the Canadian producer.

3.2.TV.2 Miscellaneous Requirements

- a) The CMF encourages all Applicants to respect the guiding principles and best practices set out in the [*On-Screen Protocols & Pathways Media Production Guide*](#).

3.2.DM.1 Requirements for the Digital Media Component

Digital Media Components must:

- a) Be associated with a Television Component that meets the requirements of section 3.2.TV.1 above; and
- b) Have a commitment from a broadcaster or other applicable entity to make the Digital Media Component available to the public in a meaningful way in conjunction with the Television Component.

¹Except for television pilots, or single episodes of a series or mini-series, and for the purposes of previewing or marketing that pilot, series or mini-series.