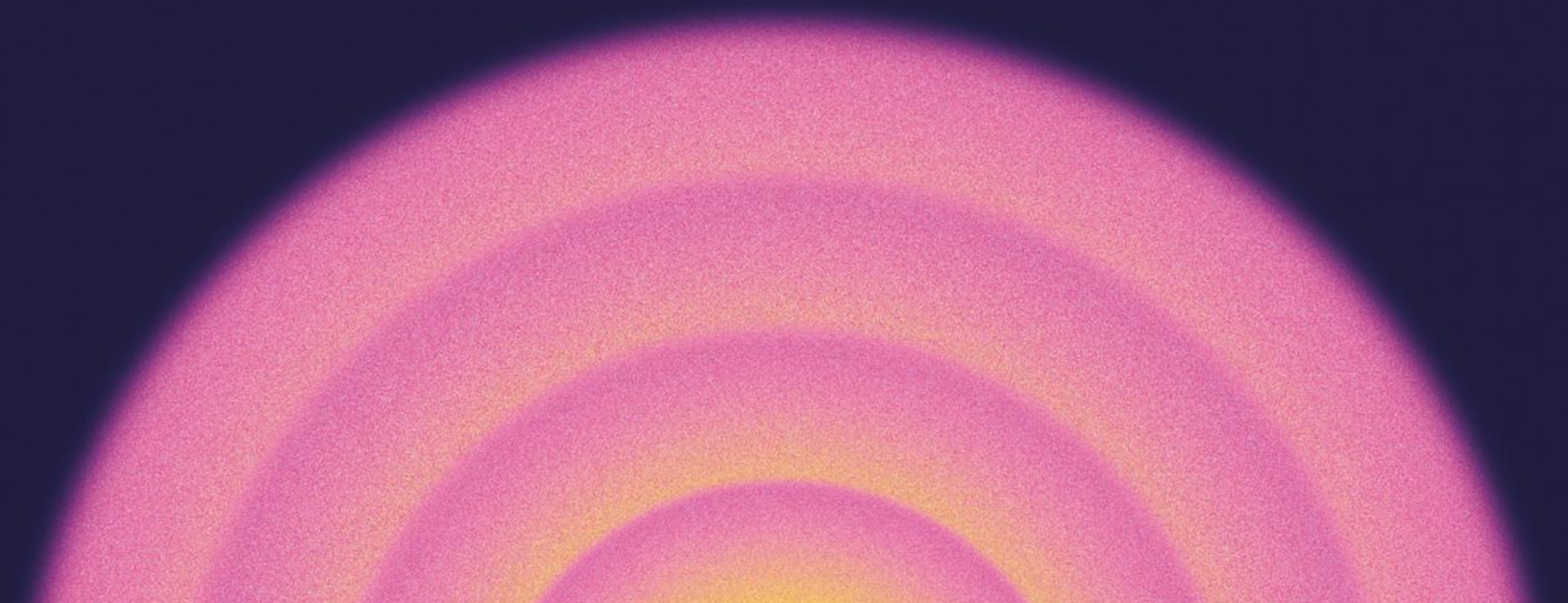
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SODEC Québec

FONDS DES MÉDIAS DU CANADA

# PRE-DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR TELEVISION SERIES BASED ON LITERARY ADAPTATIONS

## 2026-2027



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# PRESENTATION

The program supports the pre-development of fiction, documentary, and animated series for children and youth based on adaptations of Quebec literary works. It allows companies to mobilize the expertise needed to pre-develop one or more projects that have not yet received support from a broadcaster, distributor, or development financing, and facilitates the financial commitment of partners in the subsequent stages of development and production.

The program is a collaboration between the SODEC and the Canada Media Fund (CMF).

## Overall objectives

- Improve the competitive position of Quebec television production companies in national and international markets.
- Promote the production of high-quality Quebec intellectual property.

## Specific objectives

- Encourage the adaptation of Quebec literary works in the development of television series.
- Accelerate the development of high-quality Quebec intellectual property.

## General eligibility requirements

### Eligible applicants

- Be a legally constituted for-profit company and have audiovisual production as its main activity.
- Have head office and principal place of business in Quebec and demonstrate that effective control of the business is mainly held by persons having their tax residence in Quebec. The head office and principal place of business denotes the place where the decision-making centre is located and where the actual management of the business is carried out.
- Have been in operation for at least one year and have the appropriate professional experience in the production of television series.
- Sole proprietorships are not eligible for the program.

### Eligible projects

Eligible projects are fiction, documentary, or children's and youth television series. Projects for television series must comply with the Act respecting the sectoral parameters of certain fiscal measures.

A television series project must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible:

- The project must be an adaptation of a Quebec literary published work.
- The project includes writing, preparation, and presentation activities related to pre-development.
- The project may not start before the application deadline and may not include eligible expenses incurred before that date, except those related to the acquisition of rights or options.
- All rights and options necessary for the development and production of the project are held by the applicant company.
- All key positions involved in the pre-development project are held by professionals who have been tax residents in Quebec for at least two years.

Eligible projects submitted under the program must be new projects that have never received funding from SODEC or the CMF.

Any eligible company is allowed to submit a maximum of two projects per deadline.

Co-productions at the pre-development stage are not eligible.

## Financial participation

### Allowances and limits of financial contribution

Funding will take the form of a repayable advance and is intended to support pre-development project activities as accepted by the SODEC and the CMF for the pre-development period provided for in the agreement.

The amount of the contribution resulting from the partnership between the SODEC, and the CMF can reach a maximum of $50,000 per project, not exceeding 75% of the eligible expenses in the pre-development budget.

The financial participation of other public stakeholders will be taken into consideration, and, in all cases, the applicant must assume at least 25% of the total project budget, including a minimum of 10% of this in the form of monetary investment.

## Eligible expenses

The Applicant company must submit a detailed predevelopment budget.

Allowable Eligible Costs include:

- Option fees paid to an unrelated party or fees paid to acquire the rights to the Quebec literary work;
- Screenwriter fees;
- Screenwriting consultant fees;
- Script editor fees;
- Scriptwriting consultant;
- Brainstorming fees;
- Benefits (SARTEC, WGC, etc.);
- Research costs;
- Graphic design costs;
- Illustration fees;
- Non-broadcast demo;
- Corporate overhead (maximum 10% of eligible expenses);
- Producer's fees (maximum 10% of eligible expenses);
- All other expenses that are relevant and necessary for the delivery of the project.

## Payment and recovery terms and conditions

The applicant will sign two financing agreements, one with SODEC and one with the CMF.

### Payment terms for SODEC:

- 70% of the funding will be paid upon signature of the agreement.
- 30% of the funding will be paid on completion of all project-related activities. This payment is conditional on the submission of all deliverables related to the pre-development project, as specified in the agreement, as well as the submission to and acceptance by SODEC of the final cost report and a summary.

### Payment terms for the CMF:

- 100 % of the contribution will be paid upon signature of the agreement[1] and receipt of the signed agreement with SODEC.

Terms and conditions of payment are subject to change depending on the nature or complexity of individual projects.

For SODEC, payments are always conditional on the availability of funds and appropriate and sufficient approvals of allocations by the National Assembly.

The terms and conditions for repayment of the contribution will be specified in each of the agreements signed with SODEC and the CMF.

## Evaluation criteria

Applications are first analyzed by SODEC professional staff and evaluations will be discussed with the CMF before a final joint decision is made. If necessary, SODEC may seek external advice.

Priority is given to projects that stand out in terms of their potential for adaptation and feasibility. To be more specific, the following evaluation criteria will be applied:

- The project's quality and potential for adaptation into a television series:
    - Critical and public success of the literary work or its author on a national and, where appropriate, international scale;
    - Quality of the adaptation proposal (including appropriateness of the direction chosen for the adaptation, narrative approach, characters chosen, and format envisioned, etc.);
    - Relevance of the adaptation project in terms of the existing television market
- Feasibility:
    - Production team expertise (scriptwriters, script consultants, script editor, showrunner, director, producer);
    - Experience of the applicant company;
    - Credibility of the pre-development estimate, financial structure, and amount requested
- Financial health of the company.

[1] If a project application is approved, the Applicant will be required to register for a CMF PERSONA ID self-identification account.

At least 80% of the funds allocated by the SODEC to the Pre-development Program for Television Series Based on Literary Adaptations will be reserved for projects whose original version is in French.

The financial resources of the SODEC and the CMF are always factored into the decision-making process.

# SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Applications for financial support from the partnership must be submitted exclusively at the SODEC through the secure electronic portal at SOD@ccès.

Applications must be submitted by the due dates. The project submission schedule is available on the SODEC and the CMF websites.

Companies wishing to apply for financial support must provide the following documents:

- The completed and signed application form.
- As well as:
    - The applicant's declaration, confirming that the applicant holds the rights to the television series project, including the rights to adapt the Quebec literary work in question, the option or writing agreements with writers or screenwriters, and, if applicable, any other prior agreement or contract related to the project.
    - The presentation of the television series project – adaptation proposal (2 pages maximum).
    - A description of the key positions on the production team (screenwriters, script consultants, script editor, showrunner, director, producer) with short biographical notes.
    - A list of television series produced by the applicant company.
    - The financial structure and detailed budget of the pre-development project.
    - Confirmations of funding from other public or private partners, if any.
    - Chain of title history, contracts, rights acquisition licences, and option contracts.
    - The documents required to open or update the master file, which must include the company's financial statements for the last two fiscal years.
    - Any other document the SODEC requires.

# CORPORATE COMMITMENT

All financial contribution is conditional on the signing of a financial agreement and compliance with the terms and conditions of that agreement, this program, and any previous contribution, if applicable.

The SODEC and the CMF reserve the right to request any information or document deemed necessary for the processing and follow-up of files, as well as all supporting documents related to the revenues and expenses declared by the company.

Any submission of documents, information, or reports required by the SODEC and the CMF must be made through the SOD@ccès secure electronic portal.

# OTHER PROVISIONS

## Summary of the SODEC program and surveys

The SODEC periodically conducts program evaluations and various surveys in order to adapt its strategic approach or tools to meet the needs of cultural organizations. For this reason, organizations that have received financial assistance under the program must provide all necessary records, documents, or other related information in the five years following any SODEC financial participation. All information collected is kept strictly confidential. The SODEC will only publish and distribute anonymous aggregated data.

## Ethical guidelines for cultural activities and projects

Projects that contravene laws and regulations or run counter to government policies, particularly with regard to violence, sexism, pornography, or discrimination, will not be tolerated by the SODEC under its policy of encouraging compliance with ethical codes for associations.

## Sustainable development

The SODEC and the CMF encourage stakeholders to develop green and responsible business models and practices.