



CANADA  
MEDIA FUND

FONDS DES MÉDIAS  
DU CANADA

# **DEVELOPMENT AND PREDEVELOPMENT FUNDING GUIDELINES 2026-2027**

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## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

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Section 1 of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#) shall apply to the Development and Predevelopment Funding Guidelines, unless otherwise specified.

## 2. OVERVIEW

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

In addition to the requirements set out in these Guidelines, Applicants must comply with (i) the rules and requirements of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#) and (ii) the applicable policies and definitions in [Appendix A](#) and [Appendix B](#).

While the respective budgets, applicable rules and deadlines will remain distinct, the following Development and Predevelopment allocations are consolidated into this one (1) set of Guidelines:

- i) the Broadcaster Envelope Program (Development) – English and French  
*While English and French Broadcaster Envelope Allocations may be used for either development- or production-stage Projects, these Guidelines only deal with development-stage projects. Please see the [Broadcaster Envelope Program \(Production\) – English and French Guidelines](#) for more information;*
- ii) the Black and Racialized Communities Development and Predevelopment allocation;
- iii) the Francophone Minority Development allocation;
- iv) the Quebec French Regional Development allocation;
- v) the Northern Development allocation; and
- vi) the Predevelopment Funding allocation.

(collectively, “**Development and Predevelopment Funding**”)

Indigenous Development and Predevelopment funding is administered by the Indigenous Screen Office (ISO), and are no longer covered under these Development and Predevelopment Funding Guidelines and has its own separate guidelines (see [ISO website](#)).

Eligibility for Development or Predevelopment Funding does not guarantee Applicant or Project eligibility for further CMF development or production funding.

#### **Beginning in 2026-2027,**

- Eligible Projects that are Documentary series may include elements of Reality Programming or Lifestyle Programming (as defined in [Appendix A](#)), only if these Projects are owned and controlled by individuals who are First Nations, Inuit or Métis and the content is related to Indigenous culture (see Schedule A of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#)).
- Eligible Applicants who have previously received a Predevelopment Funding allocation from the CMF must have received CMF funding for one (1) production-stage project in the past seven (7) fiscal years to be eligible to apply for CMF Predevelopment Funding in 2026-2027 (see Addendum A for more information).

### 2.2 DEFINITIONS

Please see [Appendix A](#) for definitions on the following terms found in these Program Guidelines:

- Black and Racialized Communities
- Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming
- Canadian Broadcaster
- Diverse Community (Ownership) Project
- In-house Programming
- Region
- Regional Project (Predevelopment, Development and Conceptualization)
- Related Party

## 3. ELIGIBILITY

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### 3.1 ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

An Eligible Applicant to Development and Predevelopment Funding must meet:

- The Eligible Applicant criteria in section 3.1 of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#);
- Any applicable specific eligibility criteria noted in this section; and
- Any applicable further requirements/qualifications noted in Addendum A below.

a. An Eligible Applicant to **Black and Racialized Communities Development or Predevelopment funding** must meet the following criteria:

- Final control in all matters relating to the Applicant company<sup>1</sup> and the Project and at least 51% of the Applicant company's ownership and of the Project's copyright are retained by an individual producer (or multiple producers) that is a member of a Black and Racialized Community (as defined in [Appendix A](#)) ("**Black and Racialized Owner**").

For clarity, in cases where the Applicant company is comprised of multiple individual producers, the Black and Racialized Owner must have final control and the largest amount of ownership of both the Applicant company and copyright in the Eligible Project.

- The Black and Racialized Owner exercises full creative, executive, artistic, technical and financial control of the Eligible Project.
- The Black and Racialized Owner initiates and continues to meaningfully participate in the Project's development.

For clarity, where the final control and central decision makers in both the Applicant company and the Project are not with the Black and Racialized Owner(s) from the Applicant company, the Application will not be considered eligible for funding in the Black and Racialized Communities Development and Predevelopment allocation. 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.

Coproductions between an Eligible Applicant and an ineligible Applicant (i.e. a co-Applicant who would not be eligible to access Black and Racialized Communities Development or Predevelopment funding on its own), are only possible where the ineligible Applicant is a minority treaty coproduction partner in an audiovisual treaty coproduction.

b. An Eligible Applicant to **Francophone Minority Development funding** must meet the following criteria:

- Must operate and have its head office outside the province of Quebec for at least three (3) years (unless the company is an emerging one) and with all its shareholders residing outside the province of Quebec for at least three (3) years prior to the date the CMF funding application is submitted.
- Must use French as the original language of production for the majority of its development and production slate.
- Must initiate and meaningfully participate in the Eligible Project's development. Furthermore, the Applicant must exercise full control of the creative, artistic, technical, and financial aspects of the Project and hold all copyrights to the Eligible Project.

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<sup>1</sup>Including the Applicant company's board of directors.

- Must hold all copyrights to the Project on a permanent basis and retain an ongoing financial interest in the Eligible Project.

In the case of coproductions with a co-Applicant who would be ineligible to access Francophone Minority Development funding on its own, the Eligible Applicant must have initiated and meaningfully participated in the Eligible Project's development and must own at least 51% of the Project's copyright. The amount of the CMF contribution will be calculated on the portion of the Eligible Costs associated with the Eligible Applicant.

- c. An Eligible Applicant to **(i) the Quebec French Regional Development allocation** or **(ii) the Northern Development allocation** must meet the following criteria:
- Must apply with an Eligible Project that meets the CMF's definition of a Regional Project (Predevelopment, Development and Conceptualization) (as defined in [Appendix A](#)); and
  - Must meet the additional Program-specific Region requirements noted in Addendum A below.

## 3.2 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

An Eligible Project to Development and Predevelopment Funding must meet:

- The Eligible Project criteria in section 3.2 of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#);
- Any applicable specific eligibility criteria noted in this section; and
- Any applicable further requirements/qualifications noted in Addendum A below.

Up to 15% of funds available for each of Black and Racialized Communities Development, Francophone Minority Development, and Quebec French Regional Development may be allocated to Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming and In-house Programming (as defined in [Appendix A](#)). There is no Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming/In-house Programming cap for the Northern Development allocation.

In the English and French Broadcaster Envelope Program, Canadian Broadcasters are limited in the amount of their Envelope Allocation they are permitted to commit to Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming and In-house Programming. Canadian Broadcasters may commit up to 25% of their combined Drama, Documentary, Children and Youth, Variety and Performing Arts, and genre flexibility amounts to Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming and/or In-house Programming in these four genres. Canadian Broadcasters that earn Broadcaster Envelope Allocations under \$5 million or Educational Broadcasters (as defined in the [Broadcaster Envelope Manual](#)) are exempt from this limit, see section 3.3.3 of the [Broadcaster Envelope Manual](#).

Broadcaster-Affiliated Programming and In-house Programming are not eligible for support for Predevelopment Funding.

Eligible Projects submitted for Predevelopment Funding must be new projects that have not received any previous CMF funding.

Returning series are not eligible for Predevelopment Funding support.

## 4. CMF CONTRIBUTION

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A CMF Contribution to an Eligible Project will follow:

- The criteria in section 4 of the [Linear Content Programs – Core Development and Predevelopment Guidelines](#); and
- Any applicable specific criteria noted in this section.

### 4.2 AMOUNT OF CONTRIBUTION

The Maximum Contribution by the CMF to an Eligible Project receiving Development or Predevelopment Funding is outlined in Addendum A below.

If applicable, the Canadian Broadcaster's entire Development Fee and any other confirmed sources of development financing must be included within the financial structure prior to confirmation of the CMF contribution amount, up to the Maximum Contribution level.

For clarity, the applicable Maximum Contribution Amount will be calculated on the Project's Eligible Costs.

## 5. DECISION PROCESS

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For the **Broadcaster Envelope Program (Development) - English and French**, the CMF will contribute to Eligible Projects through English and French Broadcaster 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 English and French Broadcaster Envelope Allocations up to the limit of the funds allocated to them (subject to certain limitations outlined in these Guidelines).

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.

**For all other Development funding allocations** covered by these Guidelines, Eligible Projects are awarded funding on a first-come, first-served basis until resources for the applicable Program are depleted or until the applicable Program Closing Date, whichever comes first.

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.



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# **ADDENDUM A**

# **ADDITIONAL PROGRAM**

# **REQUIREMENTS**

## **2026-2027**

DEVELOPMENT AND PREDEVELOPMENT FUNDING ALLOCATION	ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS <sup>2</sup>	MAXIMUM CMF CONTRIBUTION	ELIGIBLE MARKET COMMITMENT AND THRESHOLD	OTHER
<b>BROADCASTER ENVELOPE PROGRAM (DEVELOPMENT) – ENGLISH AND FRENCH</b>	N/A	<p>The lesser of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75% of the Eligible Costs, up to a total of \$200,000 for all combined development activities and phases for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) an English Regional Project (Predevelopment, Development, and Conceptualization) (as defined in <a href="#">Appendix A</a>), or</li> <li>b) an Eligible Project accessing Broadcaster Envelope (Development) - English and French funding in the Children and Youth genre only, OR</li> </ul> </li> <li>50% of the Eligible Costs, up to a total of \$200,000 for all combined development activities and phases (including first-come, first-served Development Funding) for all other Eligible Projects (i.e. do not meet the definition of an English Regional Project (Predevelopment, Development, and Conceptualization) or are from the other three genres supported by the CMF).</li> </ul> <p>The Canadian Broadcaster's entire Development Fee and any other confirmed sources of development financing must be included within the financial structure prior to confirmation of the CMF contribution amount, up to the Maximum Contribution level.</p>	<p><u>Development Fees</u></p> <p>For English Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% of the Eligible Costs (or 25% of Eligible Costs for English Regional Projects (Predevelopment, Development and Conceptualization) as defined in <a href="#">Appendix A</a>).</li> </ul> <p>For French Projects :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25% of the Eligible Costs for Drama Projects and pilots (including all eligible genres), and</li> <li>15% for Documentary, Children and Youth, and Variety and Performing Arts Projects.</li> </ul> <p>If there is third-party financing other than the CMF, the Applicant (including a Related Party, as defined in <a href="#">Appendix A</a>), or the Canadian Broadcaster, then the Eligible Market Commitment Threshold and the CMF contribution are calculated on the total financing of the Eligible Costs minus third-party financing.</p>	<p>Canadian Broadcasters may decide what proportion of their Broadcaster Envelope Allocation to allot to an Eligible Project in development, up to the limit of the funds allocated to them and up to the specified Maximum Contribution amounts as mentioned in this table.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language of Creative Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English or French</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>PREDEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Beginning in 2026-2027</b>, Eligible Applicants who have previously received a Predevelopment Funding allocation from the CMF must have received CMF funding for one (1) production-stage project in the past seven (7) fiscal years (2019-2020 to 2025-2026) to be eligible to apply for CMF Predevelopment Funding in 2026-2027. For clarity, this requirement will not apply to new Applicants who (i) have never received Predevelopment Funding from the CMF, (ii) Black and Racialized Communities Predevelopment funding, or (iii) Indigenous Predevelopment funding.</li> </ul>	The lesser of 84% of Eligible Costs or \$35,000.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter of Interest from either a <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Broadcaster; or</li> <li>Participating and eligible provincial or territorial funding agency<sup>3</sup></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 40% of the Predevelopment Program's budget is exclusively reserved for Projects that meet the definition of a <b>“Regional Project (Predevelopment, Development and Conceptualization)”</b> in <a href="#">Appendix A</a>.</li> <li>At least 25% of the Predevelopment Program's budget is exclusively reserved for Projects that meet the definition of a <b>“Diverse Community (Ownership) Project”</b> in <a href="#">Appendix A</a>.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> In addition to section 3.1.

<sup>3</sup>Alberta Film Commission, Innovation PEI, Manitoba Film and Music, New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage, and PictureNL.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Canadian Broadcaster and participating eligible provincial or territorial funding agency is limited to the number of Projects it can unlock CMF funding for, to a maximum of two (2) Projects.</li> <li>Eligible Applicants may apply with a maximum of one (1) Eligible Project per fiscal year.</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language of Creative Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English or French</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>BLACK AND RACIALIZED COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT AND PREDEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants that received funding from Black and Racialized Communities Predevelopment in 2025-2026 for English-language Projects are ineligible to apply for Predevelopment funding in 2026-2027.</li> <li>Eligible Applicants may apply with a maximum of one (1) English-language Eligible Project in each of Predevelopment and Development per fiscal year.</li> <li>Eligible Applicants may apply with a maximum of two (2) French-language Eligible Projects per fiscal year.</li> <li>Canadian Broadcaster caps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each Canadian Broadcaster is limited to the number of English-language Eligible Projects they can unlock CMF funding for, to a maximum of two (2) Projects in Predevelopment and three (3) Projects in Development.</li> <li>Each Canadian Broadcaster is limited to the number of French-language Eligible Projects they can unlock CMF funding for, to a maximum of three (3) Projects in Predevelopment, with no limit in Development.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PREDEVELOPMENT: The lesser of 84% of Eligible Costs or \$35,000</li> <li>DEVELOPMENT: The lesser of 75% of Eligible Costs or \$100,000</li> <li>Maximum \$200,000 for all combined development activities and phases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PREDEVELOPMENT: Letter of Interest from a Canadian Broadcaster</li> <li>DEVELOPMENT: Development Fee of 10% of Eligible Costs from a Canadian Broadcaster.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language of Creative Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English or French</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>FRANCOPHONE MINORITY DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible Applicants may apply with a maximum of two (2) Eligible Projects per fiscal year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The lesser of 75% of Eligible Costs or \$100,000</li> <li>Maximum \$200,000 for all combined development activities and phases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Fee from a Canadian Broadcaster for the following amounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drama (and pilots of all eligible genres): 25% of Eligible Costs;</li> <li>Documentary, Children and Youth, Variety and Performing Arts: 15% of Eligible Costs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language of Creative Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French</li> </ul> </li> <li>Either the screenwriter or director of the Project must reside outside of Quebec. If no director has been attached to the Project at the Development stage, the screenwriter must fulfill this requirement.</li> </ul>
<b>NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible Regions for Northern Development funding include the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Nunavik, or the Yukon.</li> <li>Eligible Applicants may apply with a maximum of two (2) Eligible Projects per fiscal year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The lesser of 75% of Eligible Costs or \$50,000</li> <li>Maximum \$200,000 for all combined development activities and phases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development Fee of 15% of Eligible Costs from a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canadian Broadcaster; or</li> <li>CMF-approved community channel operating in Nunavut, Nunavik, the Yukon Territory, or the Northwest Territories can unlock CMF financing, but no minimum Eligible</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language of Creative Materials: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>English or French</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			Market Commitment is required	
<b>QUEBEC FRENCH REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eligible Region is the province of Quebec.</li><li>• Eligible Applicants may apply with a maximum of two (2) Eligible Projects per fiscal year.</li><li>• Where an Applicant receives funding for two (2) Projects in a fiscal year, only one (1) may be a returning series.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The lesser of 75% of Eligible Costs or \$100,000</li><li>• Maximum \$200,000 for all combined development activities and phases.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development Fee of 10% of Eligible Costs from a Canadian Broadcaster</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Language of Creative Materials:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ French</li></ul></li></ul>