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CANADA-NORTHERN IRELAND CO-DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE FOR AUDIO-VISUAL PROJECTS GUIDELINES 2024-2025

Guidelines for Canada-Northern Ireland Co-Development Incentive for Audio-Visual Projects 2024-2025

These Guidelines are divided into seven Sections as follows:

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2. Project Eligibility
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Introduction

The Canada-Northern Ireland Co-Development Incentive (“the **Incentive**”) is a collaboration between the Canada Media Fund (**CMF** or “**Party**”) and Northern Ireland Screen (“**NIS**” or “**Party**”) (the CMF and NIS, collectively the “**Parties**”) to fund the co-development of eligible audio-visual projects between producers from Canada and Northern Ireland.

The total amount of funding available is CAN\$200,000 (approximately £136,000) with CAN\$100,000 (approximately £68,000) contributed by each of the CMF and NIS. Such funding will take the form of a repayable advance.

To be considered for funding through the Incentive, projects must comply with both Parties’ general funding criteria, with the CMF determining eligibility for the Canadian portion of a project and NIS determining eligibility for the Northern Irish portion of the project. Projects will be evaluated and chosen by a committee comprised of representatives from each of the CMF and NIS through a selective process (using the Evaluation Criteria listed below). It is important for Applicants to note that eligibility to or financing through the Incentive does not guarantee the Applicant eligibility or financing for further CMF or NIS funding in development or in production.

The total maximum contribution for each project funded through the Incentive shall be CAN\$50,000 (approximately £34,000), consisting of (a) a CMF contribution which shall not exceed 75% of the Canadian development budget and (b) a NIS contribution which shall not exceed 75% of the Northern Irish development budget.

The total contribution from each of the CMF and NIS for each project will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

While the ownership, financial control and creative contributions shall be determined in the co-development agreement between the applicable international co-producers, the minimum minority co-producer share shall not be less than 20%. As a general guideline, the CMF and NIS encourage that such elements be proportional to each Party’s respective funding contributions.

Project Eligibility

Eligible projects must meet the following criteria:

- Is either,
 - a television project in the following genres: drama, documentary, animation, entertainment or education;¹
or
 - digital media content made for other platforms, including web series, video games, transmedia projects, virtual or augmented reality.
- Involve at least one Canadian producer (eligible under CMF criteria²) and one Northern Irish producer (eligible under NIS's criteria);
- If the proposed project has already been in receipt of development funding from either CMF or NIS, the applicant must demonstrate clearly what the new development will entail and how it will develop the project further.
- The Canadian portion of the project/content complies with the applicable subsections of section 3.2 in the CMF's Development Program or Prototyping Program Guidelines and the Northern Irish portion of the project/content complies with Northern Ireland Screen Fund development guidelines.
- The television project (if applicable) may be supported by a Letter of Interest or Commitment by an eligible Canadian broadcaster³ and an eligible UK or Irish broadcaster⁴. However, such Letter of Interest or Commitment is not mandatory.

Application Process

Key dates for 2024-2025

Launch of the Incentive:	June 4, 2024
Deadline to apply:	September 5, 2024
Decisions announced to applicants:	October 2024

No additional material can be submitted after the deadline. Projects for funding will be selected according to the Evaluation Criteria set out below. Applicants will be notified by the NIS and CMF as relevant.

¹Educational programming that is solely curriculum-based or developed directly for schools is ineligible.

² Please note, if an Applicant's project is selected for funding in this Program:

- Individuals from the Canadian production company attached to the project must complete the CMF's Self-Identification System ("Persona ID") process before any funding is released. For more information, please refer to the [CMF PERSONA-ID webpage](#).
- The Canadian Applicant will be required to submit a Narrative Positioning Attestation, in adherence with the CMF's [Narrative Positioning Policy](#).

³ An Eligible Canadian Broadcaster is defined on page 17 of the CMF's [Appendix A: Definitions and Essential Requirements](#).

⁴ Eligible UK or Irish broadcaster is a broadcaster, public or private, licensed to operate by Ofcom or the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.

Important Information and Required Documentation

- Applications must be submitted according to the deadlines published above and on the Parties' websites and in accordance with the stipulations noted in the application form.
- Each coproducer will be responsible for submitting the complete application to the authority (CMF or NIS) of its own country. The same set of documents must be submitted by each coproducer, and the application form must be signed by all coproducers.
 - Canadian Producers should submit the complete application through <https://telefilm.ca/en/log-in>. The application should be submitted in English or in French.
 - Northern Ireland Producers can find further details on how to apply via www.northernirelandscreen.co.uk/funding.
- The period of eligibility of costs will start the date the application has been submitted and no funding will be applied to costs which occurred more than 6 months prior to the application submission date. Only the costs related to the acquisition of copyright are eligible retroactively for a period of 12 months preceding the date of the submission.
- Applications must include the following **Administrative** information:
 - A list of the recent projects produced by the Northern Ireland production company in the previous 5 years
 - A list of the recent projects produced by the Canadian production company in the previous 5 years
 - The deal memo or the co-development agreement
 - Contracts proving the acquisition of necessary rights (e.g. option contract, script writer's contract etc.)
 - Development goals and timeline for the development phase
 - Development budget
 - Development financing plan
 - Detail on how the project will be developed and potentially produced in a sustainable way
 - For the Canadian production company:
 - Complete incorporation documents
 - Signed and dated CMF Declaration of the Corporation's Canadian Status, and its shareholders and Directors
- Applications must include the following **Creative** information:
 - CV of key creative personnel
 - Brief project summary
 - Description of the project and, in the case of certain digital media projects, its main features (e.g., technology, architecture, navigation, interface, graphic design, creative elements, user experience, functionalities, etc.).
 - Preliminary plan for project progress to further stages – further development (if needed), production and distribution (maximum 1 page)

The Parties reserve the right to require other documentation from applicants for the completion of the assessment of the project.

There will be no obligations for the CMF and NIS to support any of the projects submitted if the standards and objectives of the CMF and NIS are not met.

All successful applicants must enter into contracts with NIS and CMF within 6 months of the offer of funding.

Evaluation criteria

Projects will be evaluated by representatives of the CMF and NIS based on the following criteria:

- Cultural value of the project;
- Originality and creativity of the proposal;
- Blending of Northern Irish and Canadian cultural concepts in a way that engages audiences from both territories and beyond;
- Representation of (i) the themes of Northern Irish culture, voices, heritage and experience and the growth and development of the Northern Ireland production sector and (ii) the CMF's mandate (to foster, promote, develop and finance the production of Canadian content and relevant applications for all audio-visual platforms) and vision (to give Canadian and world audiences access to innovative, successful Canadian television and digital content on all platforms);
- Target audience;
- Potential for the project to reach Canadian, Northern Ireland and international audiences;
- Track record, experience and achievements of the creative team;
- The extent to which the creative team includes women in a leadership role;
- Track record, experience and achievements of the production company;
- Feasibility of the project;
- Feasibility of the development financial plan, including confirmation of 3rd parties' support, if any;
- Realism of the agenda/timeline of the project.
- The extent to which the project deals with themes of climate change.

Payment procedures

CMF

The repayable advance will be paid in two instalments: 70% after signature of the funding agreement; 30% after the submission and approval of the final version of the treatment, and final expenses report.

NIS

The development award will be paid in three instalments as follows:

- 50% on execution of contract and receipt of the executed CMF contract
- 40% on approval of a vouch for 35% of the Northern Ireland development budget costs
- 10% on delivery and approval of a vouch for 100% of the Northern Ireland development budget costs

Contacts for the program

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