

Guidelines

Screenwriters Development Fund



Introduction

The Screenwriters Development Fund (SDF) will consider investment in scriptwriting costs for film and TV projects.

Fund Objectives

Your application should demonstrate how your project achieves the following objectives:

- Supports the creation and development of film and TV script projects by **Nova Scotian filmmakers.**
- Strengthens the film and TV industry by developing Nova **filmmakers, writers, and producers.**
- Advances **diversity, inclusion, and gender parity.**

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants are Nova Scotia Producers/Production companies.

Projects must have **both** a **Nova Scotia producer** (whose production company is registered in Nova Scotia) and a **Nova Scotia writer** (who has maintained their primary residence in Nova Scotia for at least 12 months prior to the application submission date).

Eligible Expenses

- option fees for literary material
- writer and producer fees
- research or travel expenses
- story editors
- script consultants, including equity, diversity and inclusion consultants where applicable

Ineligible Expenses

- Non-scriptwriting related travel expenses
- Living expenses
- Ongoing annual operational expenses
- Ineligible projects include: news, current events or public affairs programming; talk shows; sports event or activity; reality tv; pornography/adult entertainment; advertising; console or online video games; software programming platforms; video distribution platforms.

Project Proposal

In your application, please clearly outline your responses to the following questions:

- What is your project? What work needs to be done (the effort) and why.
- How and when will it be carried out?
- Who is involved? Who are the partners or collaborators? **How** does each contribute to the project's success?
- How does your project help to advance or promote equity, diversity and inclusion?
- How much do you need? What funding is required? What are other partners contributing?

Funding Allocation

A Nova Scotia registered Production Company can receive up to 50% of project costs through the fund. The department's contribution will not exceed 50% of eligible costs and normally not exceed a maximum of \$20,000.

Application Deadline

May 24 and October 21

Application Procedure

Submit a separate application for each project.

Contact the program officer to discuss the project and the application requirements before applying.

Mickey Quase
902-456-8983
mickey.quase@novascotia.ca

Completed applications, including project budgets and supplementary material, should be sent via email to creativeindustries@novascotia.ca.

Submit your signed application form, proposal, and detailed budget by **4pm on the application deadline**.

Assessment

All applications to the Screenwriters Development Fund will be assessed by strength of score in the following categories:

- Application meets the Fund's **Objectives** by:
 - Supporting creation/development of NS filmmakers and strengthening the province's film and TV industry through their development
 - Reflecting audience interest in the project and significant potential for market and cultural impact
 - Showing committed financial support from other programs and/or demonstrated interest from investors and financiers, broadcasters and distributors.
- The listed **Key Creative Personnel** reflect:
 - Capacity to fulfill the proposed project, including relevant experience and expertise and a record of past performance in the industry
 - Gender parity and meaningful application of the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion within the makeup and assigned roles of the project's creative team
 - Demonstrated cultural knowledge and capacity to advance the project as proposed
- Demonstrated **Financial Capacity** of the project:
 - The amount requested through the Fund does not exceed 50% of the project's eligible costs and the application demonstrates the necessary financial capacity to achieve the balance of funds required to complete the project as proposed.

Prioritization

The Screenwriters Development Fund prioritizes applications that:

- Reflect significant and meaningful contributions to the project from Diverse Communities*, and
- Reflect gender parity within the members of the key creative personnel of this phase of the project-Producer(s), Screenwriter and Directors (where applicable and determined)

*For the purposes of evaluation, the Screenwriter's Development Fund applies the definition of Diverse Community as set out in the guidelines of the Canada Media Fund <https://cmf-fmc.ca/document/appendix-a-definitions-and-essential-requirements/>

A minimum 50% of the Screenwriter's Development Fund will be set aside for qualifying applicants whose proposals meet the inclusion and gender-parity objectives of the Fund.

Notification of Results

Applicants are informed of funding decisions by letter within 60 days of the application deadline.

Payment Conditions of Funding

Applicants who are approved for funding receive a letter outlining the terms and conditions of funding. Funding recipients must meet the following conditions:

- If the project is not undertaken after payment of the grant has been made, the recipient must return the funds to the department.
- Non-repayable contributions must be used for the activity as described in the application.
- The department must be notified in advance of any changes in the activity, including start and end dates, location, or any other significant changes.

Overdue Reports

If your organization has received funding through any of the Culture and Heritage Development Division's or Arts Nova Scotia's project funding programs for which the Final Report is overdue, no funds can be released for any subsequent grant approved through the Culture and Heritage Development Division or Arts Nova Scotia programs until the overdue report has been received.

Application Submission

Applications are accepted through online submission via Microsoft Forms:
[Screenwriters Development Fund 2022-23 Application \(office.com\)](#)

Project budgets should be sent separately via email to creativeindustries@novascotia.ca.

All information provided by applicants will be treated as confidential.

Contact Information

Mickey Quase
mickey.quase@novascotia.ca
t 902-456-8983