



yukon's growing film industry



lights, camera, action...



it is becoming more common to see film crews in many locations throughout the Yukon. The popularity of the Yukon as a film location is growing for commercials, short stories, documentaries and feature films.

Apart from our spectacular wilderness scenery, one of our most popular features for the film industry is ice and snow. We have the first snow and we often have the last snow of the filming season.

This makes the territory more attractive for film producers wishing snow or ice in their productions as they can enjoy longer filming seasons—especially during the late fall or early spring.

Our historic locations are also in demand by filmmakers. Older buildings, street scenes, vintage equipment and vehicles like the riverboats are important assets for the location directors.

As the film industry grows, so do the benefits for Yukon's business community. Filmmakers purchase a great many goods and services when they are working in the territory.

From hotel rooms and vehicle rentals to meals, equipment, contractors, helicopters and a multitude of other products and services, Yukon's developing film industry is good for business.

There is also opportunity for Yukoners to become involved in the industry in a variety of roles. From working as set technicians to script writers, or working as actors and extras, there are new employment options as our local film industry develops.

There is much activity and excitement on a film shoot location. Producers and their staff are dealing with a number of challenges as they conduct the day's filming.

This guide is designed to inform Yukoners of how they can be involved in this exciting industry and learn how to participate in location filming and deal with film shoots in or around their neighbourhoods.



what can I expect to occur during filming?

There are three types of companies which film in the Yukon: motion picture/television companies, commercial companies, and documentary companies. A production can have anywhere from one pick-up truck for a documentary film to 15 trucks for a major feature film.

MOTION PICTURE/TELEVISION PRODUCTIONS

These productions include the same equipment as commercials as well as motorhomes for their actors and a catering set-up.

Motion picture/television trucks tend to be longer (a maximum of 65 feet) because they need a larger variety of materials. The crews are also larger, usually 35-125 people.

Film crews are required to base camp their personal cars, catering set-up, motorhomes and most of the trucks on private property. You may notice that security will stop traffic

intermittently when the companies back their trucks onto the property when they arrive. Shuttle vans will pull up in front of the location property throughout the day to pick up personnel.

COMMERCIAL COMPANIES

Commercial productions will usually bring a few 20-foot trucks on location and 15 to 30 people. The trucks carry prop equipment, electrical cables, dollies and a camera. A small van will shuttle the crew to the location. They usually film during normal waking hours (7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and cause minimum disruption in the community.

DOCUMENTARY PRODUCTIONS

Documentaries are small and not usually very noticeable. They usually involve a maximum of 12 people, a small van and perhaps a few cars.

why should we let them film in our neighbourhood or on my property?

IT'S FUN

Film production in your business can be a unique and fun experience for you, your employees and your customers. It provides a break from the routine and can promote a sense of pride in the workplace.

IT PROVIDES PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Filming can attract media of all kinds and can be used to promote your company. If your location is an established set, then that can be used to promote business. You can use that information to attract the public to you.

IT'S GOOD FOR THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Filmed and taped entertainment is a \$20 billion industry. In the Yukon, in 2004, film productions spent in excess of \$4 million.

THE NECESSITY OF LOCATION FILMING

Companies film more on location than on the studio lot because it provides a more realistic look, it's less expensive, and it's faster. If they intend to film on location, we want them spending production dollars and hiring our people here in the Yukon.



what else do I need to know?

There are three forms of production that will be addressed here: feature films, television and commercials. Pre-production is the period of time a company has to prepare to film, and it can vary dramatically from show to show. Feature films have the luxury of longer lead times, but television and commercials suffer from severe time constraints. This requires companies to sometimes find and secure locations in just a few days.

The average filming day is 12 hours long, and can cost a company up to \$100,000. For television features or commercials, the scheduling of each production day is very important to keep the show on time and on budget. Scheduling a shooting day means allowing time and money for:

- the cast and crew to drive from the production office to the location
- parking trucks, vans and trailers
- unloading equipment
- setting up lights, sets, props
- Location moves (moving the whole operation to a second or third location)

SCOUTING – THE FIRST CALL

In most cases a location manager will call you to request the use of your property for filming. If you wish to make your property available for film production, the first questions to ask the location representative are:

- what type of production (commercial, television, feature film, documentary)
- name of the production company
- title of production
- shooting days (how many? nights or days?)
- hours of filming
- any set dressing, prep days
- description of activity
- number of people and vehicles
- pyrotechnics or stunts?

If you do not recognize the company's name, there are several ways to determine credibility:

- ask for references from the company's last several locations





- ask for the list of credits
- ask for a contact with a parent company (sometimes independents work out of studios)
- ask for proof of insurance
- call and ask the Yukon Film & Sound Commission at 867-667-5400 or toll-free at 1-800-661-0408 ext 5400.

When considering the location request, take into account:

- how do your tenants feel about filming?
- can a camera, lights and 30 people fit in the area?
- is it safe to film there? Any problems with fire regulations or building safety?

The Yukon Film & Sound Commission can assist you with what questions to ask. A brief checklist of what to ask is available at the Yukon Film & Sound Commission.



they want to use my property for filming—what happens next?

DETERMINING FEES

How much are you going to charge to rent your location? If you are a small business (shop or service), you should be compensated for all lost business while your premises are closed for filming in addition to a location fee. If you are a larger business and not necessarily put out of business for the filming day, but inconvenienced, base your price on the going rate other businesses are charging. Leave negotiating room for differing types of activity and impact.

We recommend that property owners develop a sliding fee scale that takes into consideration various production budgets, crew size and overall impact. In addition, it is important to charge fees based upon the length of the company's stay. Many times they will ask to film for a half-day or less.

You may wish to have different fees for interior versus exterior filming, with interior being more expensive.

Decide whether you will have an all-inclusive rate (that includes an on-site monitor, electrician and any other required building services or personnel) or a user-fee, plus

reimbursements. If the latter, then provide estimates to the production company of the approximate cost of these services and personnel.

THE SURVEY

If the location works artistically and logistically for both the production and for you, the location manager will return with the representatives from the production to conduct the survey.

The director or art director may ask if things can be added, moved or removed for the shot. Be as flexible as you can—the director is trying to match the location to the script.

FINAL APPROVAL

Who is authorized to approve the use of your property? If you are not available who else is authorized to make decisions or sign contracts? Time is of the essence when a production company is making final arrangements for a location. Many locations have been lost because approval for use could not be given in time.

THE CONTRACT

This is the most important part of hosting film production. It is vital to include as much information in the location agreement/contract as possible. **BE SPECIFIC:** Make sure

that you know exactly what will take place on your property. Talk it over extensively with the representatives of the company until you feel sure that you know what is planned. Be very clear with everyone about what you will or will not find acceptable. If there are areas of concern or special scheduling requirements that you have, make sure these are addressed in writing. It is best to be clear from the beginning about your requirements and expectations. But it is most important to **BE FLEXIBLE.**

Movie shooting schedules are constantly changing due to many factors, including the weather, equipment difficulties or the health of the actors. In addition, requirements for the location may change due to script revisions or time considerations. We urge you to be prepared for these eventualities in advance and to be as flexible and understanding as possible. Never forget that change is the essential nature of the film business, and be prepared for it.

INSURANCE

Most insurance policies for filming on location cover liability up to \$1 million. Make sure that the name of your company or business and your employees are named as additional insured.





if I decide to host filming, what can I do to create a positive relationship with my neighbours?

The most important thing you can do is be involved! It is recommended that you do the following:

- When a company plans to film on your property, volunteer to walk around with the company representative while they notify your neighbours and obtain signatures.
- Encourage your neighbours to call you directly if they have questions or concerns. Be responsive to their needs.
- Request that the film company show you a copy of any permits they are required to have.
- Designate someone in your family or among your employees as a monitor. This person should be present during all filming hours and watch to ensure that the company is complying with the permit and your agreement.
- If you host filming more than once in a great while, show your appreciation to your neighbours. Acknowledge their support by inviting them to dinner, sending them a gift basket, or throwing a block party once a year and inviting all your neighbours.

You can also simply talk to your neighbours on a regular basis. Find

out if any problems occurred and what could be changed so filming will run smoothly next time.

The Yukon Film & Sound Commission is not a watchdog organization; we can only advise and assist. We cannot get involved in any negotiations nor can we attempt to settle any legal issues or disputes which may arise.

FILMING ON PUBLIC LAND

Some film productions take place on public or Crown land. The producers are familiar with land use regulations and must follow environmental and any other regulations that are in place. Municipal bylaws are also enforced.

Watch for highway signs advising of a film shoot in progress and obey flag-people you may encounter.

If you do come across a film company on a location shoot in the backcountry, do not interfere or create noise which could disrupt their filming.

Most filming locations have security staff on site. If you have questions about how to avoid creating disruptions, speak with the security staff, they'll let you know the best way to ensure everything runs smoothly.





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