
PROGRAM MODULES

MODULE 1 SUPPORT FOR SCREENWRITING

MODULE 2 SUPPORT FOR PRODUCTION

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

This program is intended to foster the emergence of new talent and facilitate the integration of young creators into established film and television production networks.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The program is reserved exclusively for screenwriters, directors, producers, and distributors aged 18 to 35 on the application deadline set for each module.
- Students, whether full-time or part-time, at colleges, universities or other educational institutions are ineligible.
- Applications are admissible for both film and television projects (on standard professional formats) at the writing, production, post-production and distribution stages.
- Projects must qualify as Quebec productions. Independent and private-sector Quebec companies may apply for support at all stages. Individuals (young screenwriters or writer-directors) may apply for screenwriting support.
- Production company applicants must be represented by a producer aged 18 to 35 with clear responsibility for all artistic and administrative aspects of the project. The producer, director and screenwriter must have experience relevant to the project and its budget.
- Producers may submit no more than two projects (screenwriting or production) per funding round. Screenwriters and writer-directors may submit only one project per round.
- At least 80% of the funding provided through the Young Creator Support Program is reserved for films shot in French.
- Applications for production and post-production support for feature films should be submitted to the Production Support Program, Module 1.2. – Selective Support for Independent Feature Films.
- Funding applications for screenwriting and production projects involving government agency employees are admissible provided that the projects satisfy the program eligibility criteria and that the rights to the work in question are wholly owned by the private-sector company.

Exclusions

- The following genres and formats are ineligible for SODEC support: pilots; commercials; promotional, sponsored, industrial, educational and instructional productions; game shows; sports programs; taped events; current and public affairs programs; news reports; music videos; experimental films; art and alternative videos; variety shows; magazine formats; reality shows; light information programs; drama and documentary series and mini-series (with the exception of collection/anthology productions); projects whose sole purpose is to alter the format, length or medium of an existing work.
- Broadcasting companies that have held, currently hold or acquire an operating licence under the *Broadcasting Act* (R.S.C., c. B-9) are either ineligible for this program or subject to very specific conditions. These conditions also apply to production companies having corporate ties to a holder of such licence. The exclusions and specific eligibility criteria are described in the Definitions section, under Eligible Companies.
- Projects that have received support through SODEC's regular film and television production programs are ineligible.
- Projects developed as part of a study program are ineligible.
- SODEC normally does not fund projects where more than 50% of total salaries is deferred. SODEC may allow priority recoupment of such deferrals.

As a general rule, SODEC does not provide retroactive support, through any module.

PROJECT EVALUATION

All applications for screenwriting and production support are sent for evaluation and recommendation to external committees composed of industry representatives with recognized expertise in film and television.

SODEC evaluates projects on the basis of their originality, relevance, quality, cultural value, production costs and potential to reach target audiences. It pays particular attention to a project's overall cohesion and specifically analyzes the following elements:

- Script or synopsis (for drama) or detailed proposal (for documentaries)
- Participant experience
- Production company track record
- Budget and financial structure
- Marketing plan, for production, post-production and distribution applications

The weight given to adequate production management increases with the project's estimated production costs, the participants' experience and SODEC's financial risk (amount invested), especially for feature-length documentaries.

All decisions are contingent upon available funds.

The final step in the evaluation process is consideration of external evaluation committee recommendations. SODEC advises applicants of its decisions as quickly as possible.

Projects may be submitted to a given module only once a year. Projects initially rejected may be resubmitted if creative elements have been substantially modified.

SODEC reserves the right to require applicants to hire a consulting producer, a consulting director or a story editor to oversee the project's production or screenwriting.

Forms of Support and Recoupment

Funding is selective and usually takes the form of investments for screenwriting and production and grants for distribution.

Screenwriting investments are recouped at the time of production as follows:

- If SODEC provides production support, the screenwriting investment is merged with the production investment.
- If SODEC does not provide production support, the screenwriting investment may be converted into a production investment, provided the project qualifies as a Quebec production and complies with the eligibility requirements of the production support module in question. In such cases, producers must submit a written request for the conversion and supply all documents usually required for the signature of a production investment contract. This procedure does not apply to projects scripted with corporate support through Module 2.3 of the Screenwriting Support Program.

SODEC recoups its investment according to the conditions negotiated with the applicant when the contract is drafted. The recoupment tiers are usually as follows:

- 100% of any deferrals
- 50% to the producer up to the combined amount of the producer's investment and Quebec tax credit, and 50% to SODEC and the other investors to be shared *pro rata* and *pari passu*
- SODEC recoups the balance of its investment *pari passu* with the other investors
- SODEC receives a share of the profits generated by the production.

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Applications delivered after 5:30 p.m. on a deadline date, whether by hand, by post or by any other means, will be deemed ineligible for evaluation and automatically returned to the applicant.

Applications to Module 3 for distribution or special project support, including the completed form and all required documents, may be submitted at any time.

Incomplete applications will be automatically returned to the applicant.

The complete 2006-2007 Application Deadline Calendar is available on the SODEC website.

Information Sessions

First-time applicants for production support are strongly encouraged to attend a SODEC information session.

For the dates of these sessions and to register, call (514) 841-2235.

APPLICATION ADDRESS

Direction générale du cinéma et de la production télévisuelle

SODEC

215 Saint-Jacques, Suite 800

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MODULE 1 SUPPORT FOR SCREENWRITING

OBJECTIVES

- Support the writing or rewriting of original, varied, high-quality scripts, contributing primarily to direct writing costs.
- Favour the conditions needed for the completion of production-ready scripts.
- Encourage the emergence of new screenwriters and writer-directors, and their collaboration with experienced advisors.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- This selective support module is intended for young screenwriters and writer-directors, and for private-sector and independent Quebec production companies. Applicant companies must be sole proprietorships or legally constituted entities (for-profit company, non-profit organization, cooperative or consortium). Sole proprietorships are eligible for screenwriting support only.
- It primarily concerns one-off drama or documentary works of various lengths (shorts, medium-length films and features). Exceptionally, and depending on the experience of the writer and the production company, SODEC may support the writing of collection/anthology drama or documentary series or mini-series. The total running time of such productions may not exceed the maximum running time of a medium-length film, i.e. 74 minutes.

- For feature film or feature-length documentary writing support, the writer must have on-screen credits as screenwriter, co-screenwriter, director or co-director on one or more works totalling at least 15 minutes and broadcast or shown in a professional venue (festivals, film clubs etc.). However, SODEC may choose to support feature film or feature-length documentary projects by writers not having production credits if they are developed and submitted by young producers experienced in producing such films and eligible for the Young Creators Support Program.
- Support is available for all phases of screenwriting, including research and rewriting. SODEC may opt to support a screenwriting project in its entirety or on a phase-by-phase basis.
- SODEC takes into account the results of applicants' previous projects supported through Module 1 of this program.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Nature of Support

Selective support is provided in the form of an investment. The terms and drawdown schedule are negotiated with the applicant when the contract is drafted.

Allowable Costs

Applicants may submit an overall budget but SODEC supports only allowable costs. These generally include the following: writing, research and story editing fees, related expenses (travel, etc.), overhead and producer fees. Overhead (maximum 15%) and producer fees (maximum 15%) may not exceed 30% of the total of other allowable costs. Furthermore, producer fees are allowable only when the project is submitted by a production company whose owner is the sole producer or consulting producer for the project.

Investment Amount

SODEC's investment is usually capped at \$10,000 per project. However, up to \$12,000 may be invested in projects where the producer's or consulting producer's fee is an allowable cost.

For feature film projects for which an experienced story editor is hired, investment is capped at \$12,000, or \$15,000 if the producer's or consulting producer's fee is an allowable cost.

This applies as well to collection/anthology drama or documentary series or mini-series with a total running time of no more than 74 minutes.

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

The deadlines for applications to Module 1, including the application form and all required documents, are **May 15, 2006**, and **October 30, 2006**.

Applications delivered after 5:30 p.m. on a deadline date, whether by hand, by post or by any other means, will be deemed ineligible for evaluation and automatically returned to the applicant.

Incomplete applications will be automatically returned to the applicant.

The complete 2006-2007 Application Deadline Calendar is available on the SODEC website.

Information Sessions

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OBJECTIVES

- Encourage and financially support the production of:
 - original, varied, high-quality works
 - artistically and financially coherent projects well suited to their target audience(s)
- Foster the emergence of new directing and producing talent and collaboration between young creators and experienced professionals

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

- This module is intended for private-sector and independent Quebec production companies. Applicants must be registered or incorporated, and registered with the Registraire des entreprises du Québec (REQ). To qualify for tax credits, companies must be incorporated.
- It concerns short and medium-length documentary, drama and animation productions and feature-length documentaries, on all shooting and delivery formats. Exceptionally, and depending on the experience of the writer and the production company, SODEC may support the writing of collection/anthology drama or documentary series or mini-series. The total running time of such productions may not exceed the maximum running time of a medium-length film: 74 minutes.
- For production or post-production support for feature-length documentaries, both the writer and the director must have on-screen credits as such on one or more works totalling at least 15 minutes and broadcast or shown in a professional venue (festivals, film clubs etc.).
- SODEC favours shorts with running times of less than 10 minutes suitable for play in movie theatres.
- Applications must be accompanied by a marketing strategy. For feature-length documentaries, SODEC favours projects accompanied by a letter of interest from an eligible distributor.
- Documentary coproductions with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) are eligible provided the private-sector or independent company has controlling ownership of the copyright. SODEC funding is applicable to the portion of the production assumed by the private-sector or independent company.
- Should the NFB wish to acquire the distribution rights to the production, excluding theatrical, the producer and the NFB must enter into a separate agreement reflecting the production's characteristics and commercial potential and approved by SODEC.
- Applications for production support must be submitted prior to the first day of shooting.
- Applications for post-production support must be submitted after completion of shooting and prior to final editing. They must be accompanied by visual material (selection of meaningful rushes, assembly or rough cut) and a director's note explaining the visual and audio work still to be done. Only original, high-quality projects of outstanding artistic and cultural value having real distribution potential will be evaluated. SODEC does not provide retroactive funding and thus excludes shooting costs from consideration. Applicants must demonstrate to SODEC's satisfaction that they hold all exploitation rights to the production.
- Applications for feature film production and post-production support should be submitted to the Production Support Program, Module 1.2 – Selective Support for Independent Feature Films.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Nature of Support

Selective support is provided in the form of a production investment. The terms and drawdown schedule are negotiated with the applicant when the contract is drafted.

Investment Amount

SODEC's total investment is capped at \$75,000 for short and medium-length dramas and documentaries. The same cap applies to thematic and anthology drama and documentary series and mini-series with a total running time equivalent to a short or medium-length film.

For feature-length documentaries, total investment is capped at the lesser of 49% of the budget or \$100,000.

LEGAL DEPOSIT

Quebec's legal deposit obligations came into effect on January 31, 2006. Therefore, producers must include the cost of a legal deposit copy in production budgets submitted to SODEC. The legal deposit procedures are available on the Cinémathèque québécoise website at www.cinematheque.qc.ca.

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Applications for support (Module 2), including the form and all required documents, must be submitted by one of the following deadlines: **February 13** or **March 27, 2006**

Applications delivered after 5:30 p.m. on a deadline date, whether by hand, by post or by any other means, will be deemed ineligible for evaluation and automatically returned to the applicant.

Incomplete applications will be automatically returned to the applicant.

The complete 2006-2007 Application Deadline Calendar is available on the SODEC website.

An administration and evaluation fee of **\$50** is payable per project and per submission, as mentioned under Submitting an Application in the Program Overview above.

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MODULE 3 SUPPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

OBJECTIVES

- Support the marketing and distribution of Quebec films, primarily those made with assistance from the Young Creators Support Program.
- Support special projects related to the promotion of young filmmakers and their works.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- This module is intended for production and distribution companies satisfying the General Eligibility Criteria.
- Productions must have been written, directed, and produced by young creators aged 18 to 35 and completed after January 1 of the calendar year preceding the SODEC fiscal year in which the application is submitted.
- SODEC favours productions in which it has invested, and which are marketed by recognized distribution companies.
- Support is available for marketing projects aimed at commercial or alternative theatrical distribution in Quebec and for strategies targeting well-defined secondary markets.
- Applications must be accompanied by a detailed marketing plan precisely identifying the targeted markets, the planned means for reaching them and the theatres and distribution networks involved.
- SODEC may require that prints and other materials be produced in Quebec.
- Support is also available for special projects by Quebec companies and associations having experience relevant to the nature and budget of the project. SODEC may undertake promotional projects on its own or in partnership with Quebec companies or professional associations.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Nature of Support

- Support is provided as a grant. Grant contracts usually call for two instalments, one of which payable upon submission and approval of a detailed cost report with supporting documents.
- Applicants agree to provide SODEC with copies of any promotional material (posters, photos, press kits, etc.). Also, at the end of the production's run, applicants shall turn over to SODEC an original-format print in good condition (provided one remains) to be used, with the producer's consent, for promotional purposes at festivals and cultural events. In no case will it be used for distribution.

Allowable Costs for Distribution Applications

- Laboratory expenses for up to three release prints
- Design, production and printing expenses for marketing and promotional material
- Launch expenses in all markets

Grant Amount

Grants are capped at \$5,000 for shorts and medium-length films, and at \$10,000 for feature films.

Support for special projects is generally provided as a grant. Grant contracts usually call for several instalments, one of which payable upon submission and approval of a detailed cost report accompanied by supporting documents.

SODEC grants may not be recouped by the distributor or any other party.

All decisions are contingent upon available funds.

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Applications to Module 3 for distribution or special project support may be submitted at any time but must be received reasonably in advance of the project launch.

The complete 2006-2007 Application Deadline Calendar is available on the SODEC website.

Incomplete applications will be automatically returned to the applicant.

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DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are part of SODEC's film and television support program guidelines and apply to the Screenwriting, Production, Promotion and Distribution, and Young Creators programs.

Auteur Documentary

In addition to meeting the general definition of a documentary, auteur documentaries:

- Employ original narrative and cinematic techniques, strongly reflect the director's personal vision in their treatment of the subject matter, and are generally extensions of the director's previous work.
- Are usually initiated by the director, who, in close collaboration with a producer or acting as producer, controls the editorial and creative content at every stage of the project's development and production, up to and including the final answer print.

Documentary

Any audiovisual production that represents reality in a non-fictional fashion, informs the viewer, and offers an analysis of a given subject.

SODEC invests in documentary productions that are based on exhaustive research, present a strong editorial point of view and are potentially of long-term interest. The cinematic treatment must be original and clearly different from that of strictly informational programs or themed series.

Eligible Broadcaster

A company appropriately licensed under the *Broadcast Act* (R.S.C., c. B-9) to broadcast the production in the principal regions of Quebec.

Eligible Companies

Private-sector and independent Quebec companies are eligible for support, subject to the general and specific conditions of the various financial support programs.

However, the following are ineligible for the Screenwriting, Production and Young Creators programs:

- Broadcasting companies holding an operating licence under the *Broadcasting Act* (R.S.C., c. B-9)
- Companies acquiring such licence during the taxation year in which the application is submitted
- Companies holding such licence during the 24 months preceding the taxation year in which the application is submitted
- Companies controlling the holder of such licence or controlled by a holder of such licence, de facto or de jure, directly or indirectly, during the taxation year in which an application is submitted or during the 24 months preceding that year

Furthermore, production companies affiliated with or holding a minority interest in a broadcasting company during the taxation year in which the application is submitted, or during the 24 months preceding that year, are eligible for funding only in respect of productions not intended for first-run airing by the broadcaster in question.

Film

A motion picture produced by technical means in any medium.

Formats

Short

30 minutes or less

Medium-length

31-74 minutes

Feature-length

75 minutes or more

Mini-series and Series

SODEC defines a "mini-series" (2-6 episodes) or "series" (more than 6 episodes), as one of the following:

- Collection or anthology production: several programs sharing a general theme but each complete in its own right
- Production package: multiple programs grouped for the purposes of a production and broadcast agreement, each of which can be aired independent of the others.

Independent Production

In independent production, the filmmaker enjoys not only complete creative control, but also, and primarily, a degree of editorial independence that generally eliminates the normal constraints associated with commercial distribution and exploitation. Very often, the filmmaker performs multiple roles: screenwriter, director, and even producer. Independent productions are usually distributed through networks not used by the private sector (e.g. artist centres, indie distributors). Production budgets are generally modest, and funding is often completed by grants and deferrals. This definition applies only to drama projects (features, shorts, medium-length films).

To qualify for SODEC support, independent companies must possess experience relevant to independent production, the submitted project and the projected budget. They must be sole proprietorships or legally constituted entities (for-profit company, non-profit organization, cooperative or consortium). To qualify for tax credits, companies must be incorporated.

Principal Place of Business

The location where a company's decisions are made and real management is exercised.

Private-Sector Production

Private-sector film and television production (excluding broadcaster production) is the activity carried out in a production structure involving multiple persons, notably a screenwriter, a director, and a producer (who generally performs no other function). With few exceptions, company-made productions employ a broad range of industry services, from pre-production to marketing, and obtain a major portion of their financing in the form of investments. They are usually distributed through commercial channels.

Production Budget

Detailed document setting out the projected production costs, including screenwriting, development, pre-production, shooting, post-production and overhead expenses.

Quebec Company

A company that satisfies the following criteria:

- The head office and principal place of business are located in Quebec.
- Two thirds of the voting shares entitled to elect a majority of directors are held by Canadian citizens resident in Quebec.
- Two-thirds of the associates or administrators are residents of Quebec.
- Any corporation holding an interest in the company satisfies these same criteria.

This definition applies to all programs except Modules 2.1 and 2.2 of the Promotion and Distribution Support Program, in which cases eligible applicants (independent Quebec exhibitors) must be wholly owned by Quebec interests.

Quebec Production

A production whose primary market is Quebec and which satisfies the following criteria ("overall" meaning at least 75% of the total):

- Overall screenwriting fees (excluding the acquisition of rights) are paid to one or more persons resident in Quebec.
- Overall acting fees, except those for extras, are paid to persons resident in Quebec.
- Overall crew members (calculated as number of technicians per day x number of shooting and post-production days worked) are residents of Quebec.
- Overall purchase and rental expenses for shooting and post-production equipment and services are incurred in Quebec.
- Overall directing fees are paid to one or more persons resident in Quebec.
- Production is handled by a Quebec company and a Quebec producer. The company holds all rights and options required for the development, production, distribution and exploitation of the project in all territories. Such rights include but are not limited to the right to produce the project in all languages and formats and by any process whatsoever, as well as the distribution and exploitation rights for all media.
- Distribution in Quebec is handled by a Quebec company.

These criteria apply to all projects submitted at either the screenwriting or the production stage.

In the case of a coproduction, SODEC support is applied to the Quebec portion of the budget, provided the above criteria are satisfied.

When required by special production conditions, SODEC may make exceptions to this policy. For example, the crew requirement may be waived if the script or documentary project demands shooting outside Quebec. Similarly, the performer fee requirement may be waived if the use of a non-Quebec actor secures substantial private-sector financial participation from non-Quebec markets.

Furthermore, SODEC may allow a production to be distributed in Quebec by a company less than two thirds-owned by Quebec interests, provided the company holds a general distribution licence issued by the Régie du cinéma. SODEC may also allow a Quebec production to be sold outside Quebec by a non-Quebec company if the company provides a significant minimum guarantee. In both cases, the company must have recognized expertise in the Quebec or non-Quebec market, as the case may be, relevant to the type of production in question.

For documentaries coproduced with the National Film Board (NFB), the requirement that distribution in Quebec be handled by a Quebec company is replaced by the specific condition set out in Module 3 (Support for Documentaries) of the Production Support Program and in Module 2 (Production Support) of the Young Creators Support Program.

Quebec Project

A project that satisfies the following criteria ("overall" meaning at least 75% of the total):

- The production or implementation of the project is carried out by a Quebec company or association.
- Overall management and personnel fees incurred for the project are paid to persons resident in Quebec.
- Overall expenses for the purchase and rental of equipment, resources and services are incurred in Quebec.

These criteria apply to projects submitted to the Promotion and Distribution Support Program and to Module 3 (Distribution and Special Projects Support) of the Young Creators Support Program.

Residence

A person's permanent legal address and primary residence. To qualify as a Quebec resident, a person must have been legally domiciled in Quebec for at least two years.

Rewrite

New version of a script resulting from major changes to the narrative, structure, characters or dialogue.

TV Movie

A feature-length drama made for television.

Twinning

An arrangement whereby two distinct works of similar kind and budget, one from Quebec and one from outside Quebec, are paired under a single certification.

In all twinning arrangements, each coproducer's participation must be of equal value. However, the coproducers may agree to share their artistic and technical contributions over the two projects or to concentrate them in their respective projects, so long as overall reciprocity is maintained. In the latter case, the projects retain creative and technical consistency in terms of their country or province of origin. Depending on existing coproduction agreements, twinned productions may qualify as official coproductions.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

SODEC establishes a master file for every company and individual it does business with. First-time applicants must provide all documents and information needed to create this file. For subsequent applications, only updates are needed, along with any material and information required by the particular program to which application is made.

Corporate master files include:

Company Description

- Corporate history
- Activities and principal achievements
- Copies of documents of incorporation (status, declaration of registration, partnership agreement)
- Names and resumes of administrators
- Names and details of board members
- Organizational chart of the company, and of any related companies, with detailed shareholder breakdown

Financial Information

- Financial statements (balance sheet, income statement) of the company, and of any related companies, duly approved and signed by the directors
- Allowable costs incurred (compensation, allowances and other expenses) as a result of related-party transactions must be disclosed in the submitted financial statements, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Personal master files include:

- Resume
- Social insurance number

PROGRAM REVIEW AND SODEC STUDIES

SODEC periodically reviews this program and conducts studies to ensure that its action strategy and tools are in line with the needs of cultural companies. Therefore, recipients of financial support through the program must make available any records, documents or other information that may be needed for this purpose during the five years following receipt of support. The information gathered is kept confidential, and SODEC publishes and distributes only aggregate results.

REPORTING OF INFORMATION TO THE MINISTÈRE DU REVENU

Applicants should note that SODEC reports to the Ministère du Revenu all contractual payments and grants paid to individuals, companies and partnerships, and that all recipients of support receive an RL-27 slip summarizing the amounts paid over the year.

SPECIFIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS

SODEC may conclude specific agreements with regional agencies for the purpose of achieving regional development objectives. In such cases, SODEC seeks out partners in a position to contribute to the growth of cultural companies.

OTHER FORMS OF SUPPORT

Support for film and television production is also available through these SODEC programs:

- Screenwriting Support Program
- Promotion and Distribution Support Program
- Production Support Program
- Tax Credit Financing Program for Film and Television Productions
- Corporate Financing
- Cultural Export and Promotion Support Program

Information on these programs and the eligibility criteria can be found on the SODEC website: www.sodec.gouv.qc.ca

Ethical Provisions concerning Cultural Activities and Projects

Projects that contravene any applicable law or regulation or go against government policy, notably pertaining to violence, sexism, pornography or discrimination, are ineligible for SODEC support. SODEC encourages adherence to association codes of ethics. SODEC encourages adherence to association codes of ethics.