



Cours écrire ton court (the “contest”) is organized by the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles (SODEC) in collaboration with Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma, Festival REGARD and the Société des auteurs de radio, télévision et cinéma (SARTEC). The institut national de l'image et du son (L'inis) provides all training organized as part of the contest.

OBJECTIVES

Provide emerging screenwriters who have embarked on a professional career and are looking to further develop their knowledge with an opportunity to:

- Develop a short fiction film screenplay with the support of a screenwriting advisor;
- Explore specific screenwriting issues and learn to present a project in a professional setting;
- Collaborate with film industry players and establish professional contacts.

CONTEST PROCESS

All screenwriting activities will be held between **February 8 and March 26, 2023**, inclusively.

The finalists will participate in several creative development sessions, during which they will receive training from L'inis. These sessions will be held from February 8 – 12, 2023 in Québec City, February 24 – 25, 2023 in Montréal and March 22 – 26, 2023 in Saguenay.

The contest will also be part of two independent events, specifically **Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma in Montréal** (February 22 – March 4, 2023) and **Festival REGARD, an international short film festival in Saguenay** (March 22 – 26, 2023), which will both be hosting activities. Participants will have access to all the events of Rendez-vous Québec Cinéma and the Festival REGARD and will benefit from professional certification to attend the festivals.

Expenses related to accommodation, travel and meals while attending the workshops in Québec, Montréal and Saguenay will be covered for screenwriters who do not live in the workshop region or are not sufficiently close to commute.

The sessions will take place in person, in accordance with the Public Health sanitary measures at that moment. If not possible, the sessions will be held online.

The winners of the various prizes will be announced around **March 25, 2023**.

APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted on the [SOD@ccès secure electronic filing platform*](mailto:SOD@ccès secure electronic filing platform).

Visit the platform for [filing instructions*](#).

* The filing instructions and the SOD@ccès platform are in French, but you can submit your scenario in English.

Please take note of the list of required documents in advance in order to respect the **registration deadline:**
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022, 11:59 P.M. (EST)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Resident of Québec for tax purposes for at least the last two years.
- Resident of Québec for tax purposes with an address located outside a minimum radius of 50 km from the city of Montréal (calculated from the Papineau metro station) or be a First Nations or Inuit member whose main residence is in an Indigenous community (reserve) in Québec.
- Experience deemed appropriate by SODEC, for example, completion of at least one narrative audiovisual work that has received a professional broadcast recognized by SODEC.
- Full copyright ownership in the original material submitted and in any cinematographic work that may arise from that material.
- The submitted project must be an original short fiction film, written in French or English.
- Only one project per person may be submitted.

ELIGIBILITY EXCLUSIONS

- Resident of Québec for tax purposes whose residence address is within the greater Montréal area, i.e. within a radius of less than 50 km from the Papineau metro station, with the exception of First Nations or Inuit members whose main residence is located in an Indigenous community (reserve) in Québec.
- Candidates deemed by SODEC to be too experienced to qualify for financial assistance under the [programme d'aide à la création émergente](#), specifically:
 - ◆ anyone who has already written a screenplay for a feature-length film that has received a professional broadcast recognized by SODEC;
 - ◆ anyone who has already been a screenwriter for a project funded by SODEC under Sections 1 or 3 of its [programme d'aide à la production](#).
- Full-time students in any discipline, except students in a graduate program.
- Applicants who have already been finalist in an earlier version of the contest.
- Screenplay projects that have already been accepted by SODEC regardless of the programme, screenplays based on literary, theatrical or other adaptations and the types of projects identified in the exclusions from the [programme d'aide à la création émergente](#).

CANDIDATES OBLIGATIONS

Candidates must be available for all activities and workshops organized for the contest from **February 8 to March 26, 2023.**

SELECTION

Applications meeting the eligibility criteria will be submitted to a selection committee composed of film professionals mandated to select seven finalists.

The finalists will be notified around **January 19, 2023**. The list of finalists will be publicly announced around **February 1st, 2023**.

SODEC will contact only those candidates whose projects have been selected. The committee's selection is final. No information about the evaluation of applications will be communicated to candidates who have not been selected.

Projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Overall proposal: Interest and engaging nature of the proposal, the transposition to film, originality, degree of progress, potential to generate interest in Québec and abroad.

Handling of the story: Strength of the storyline, effectiveness of the dramatic structure, narrative rhythm, coherence of the point(s) of view, development of issues.

Characters: Issues and goals, coherence with the genre, transformation, emotion and identification, quality of the dialogue.

Film qualities of the proposal: Strength, vision and interest of the style invoked.

Feasibility: Feasibility of the screenplay proposal from a financial and artistic perspective.

PRIZES

Once the final versions of the screenplays have been submitted, a jury composed of film industry professionals will select the winners of the following prizes:

COURS ÉCRIRE TON COURT GRAND PRIZE

The **Cours écrire ton court** Grand Prize is awarded by the jury to the most polished screenplay demonstrating the greatest film potential. The various prize components will enable the winning screenplay to be brought to the screen, if it meets Contest requirements.

The Grand Prize winner will receive a screenwriting bursary (see the description of the contest Grand Prize). They will also receive production support, provided that the production companies, directors and producers chosen meet SODEC eligibility criteria for the [programme d'aide à la création émergente](#). Production support is also subject to SODEC's approval of the proposal to produce the winning screenplay. The winning screenwriter may, without obligation, produce their own project provided that, as producer/director, they meet all applicable eligibility conditions of the [programme d'aide à la création émergente](#).

- **SODEC support for the winning screenwriter**
 - ◆ A \$7,000 amount awarded by SODEC;
 - ◆ A \$750 amount awarded by la Fabrique culturelle, the digital platform of Société de télédiffusion du Québec (Télé-Québec).
- **SODEC support in production**
 - ◆ A production grant of up to \$115,000 subject to meeting eligibility conditions of the Program to support emerging creators at the time the production assistance application is filed, and subject to SODEC approval of the production proposal for the winning screenplay.
- **Different prizes offered in filming equipment and post-production services**
 - ◆ Offered by: Post-Moderne, SLA, Bande à part, Spira, Bande Sonimage et Paraloeil.
- **Broadcasting licence**
 - ◆ A broadcasting licence for the winning short film from La Fabrique Culturelle, digital platform of Télé-Québec.
- **Theatre screening**
 - ◆ A private showing in Cinéma Moderne, valued at \$500, offered by Post-Moderne.
- **Legal services**
 - ◆ Equivalent of \$2,000 in legal services for the production of the winning short film offered by the firm Lussier & Khouzam.
- **Consultations**
 - ◆ A value of \$5,000 in services as part of the On tourne vert program, coordinated by the BCTQ, which includes: support services in pre-production and production, On tourne vert accreditation and visibility in the communications of the BCTQ;
 - ◆ Information meeting with representatives of SODEC senior management in film and television production;
 - ◆ Information meeting about tax credits with representatives of SODEC's tax measures department.

The contribution of the various partners may be conditional upon the winner obtaining production support from SODEC.

PRIX SARTEC, in the amount of \$2,000, for the most polished French screenplay other than the Grand Prize winner.

PRIX L'inis

All participants will receive a certificate valid for a \$350 discount on the price of a tailored course offered by L'inis.

QUESTION? CHECK [THE ONLINE FAQ](#).



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