

EMERGING TALENT PROGRAM 2026–2027

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BRILLER ICI COMME AILLEURS

SODEC
Québec 



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TRANSLATION

If there is a discrepancy between the English and French versions, the French version prevails.

OVERVIEW

The emerging talent program (Programme d'aide à la création émergente) is aimed at all Québec audiovisual production companies that develop projects with emerging creators.

The program is open to both short and feature-length fiction films, as well as short, medium-length and feature-length documentaries. Projects must be submitted at the development stage to take advantage of professional guidance, mentoring, networking and consulting services that are available to emerging creators.

General objectives

- Foster the emergence of new talent and diversity in the creation of cinematographic works and in production companies;
- Promote the development and production of quality, original, engaging and diverse works capable of reaching audiences in Québec or abroad;
- Encourage entrepreneurship and professionalization among emerging creators;
- Facilitate access for emerging creators to regular financing and production channels.

General eligibility requirements

Eligible companies

Companies submitting a project to the emerging talent program must meet the following requirements:

- comply with the definition of a [Québec company](#) in film and television production;
- be legally incorporated and duly registered with the Registraire des entreprises du Québec at least one year prior to the application deadline date.
- be represented by an emerging producer who has been delegated clear responsibilities regarding all the artistic and administrative aspects of the project;
- hold all the rights allowing scriptwriting, production and commercialization of the submitted project;
- not be a sole proprietorship.

Eligible emerging creators

In the context of this program, the term “emerging creators” refers to the roles of producer, director and screenwriter.

To be eligible, an emerging creator must meet all the following criteria:

- have had their tax residence in Québec for at least two years;
- producers must possess the minimum experience required, depending on the type of project submitted and the role occupied, in accordance with the conditions set out in the document [Guide for emerging creators - Required experience](#);
- producers, directors and scriptwriters must not exceed the maximum experience permitted, depending on the type of project submitted and the role occupied, in accordance with the conditions set out in the document [Guide for emerging creators - Required experience](#);
- not be a full-time student in high school, college, undergraduate university or a vocational training program.

In addition, producers may not simultaneously serve as directors or screenwriters.

Eligible projects

To be eligible, a project must meet all the following criteria:

- be a short or feature-length fiction film, or a short, mid-length or feature-length documentary;
- comply with the definition of a [Québec production](#);
- be led by [eligible emerging creators](#);
- comply with the specific project eligibility requirements that apply to it.

This program is not open to projects that have previously applied to SODEC’s Development program and Production program.

For a production where the original language is, partially or completely, other than French, SODEC requires that subtitling or dubbing of the work in French be included in the production budget or in distribution agreements for the compulsory release of the French version in Québec. In the case of dubbing of the work into French, this must be carried out by a Québec-based company and by Québec performers. Overdubbing is allowed for documentaries only if an agreement to this effect already exists with a broadcaster.

Specific eligibility requirements

All projects submitted must comply with the general eligibility requirements and specific conditions set out below.

At the time of application

- A company, including any related companies ([Définition d'entreprises reliées](#)), may submit a maximum of three projects per application, provided that at least half of the projects submitted are scripted by women, and in case of an odd number of projects, the majority must be scripted by women.

- In the case of a feature-length fiction film project, the total production budget must not exceed \$2.5 million.
- After two rejections, a project is no longer eligible to the emerging talent program.

Once accepted for development

- Emerging creators will be required to participate in professional workshops, such as mentoring, networking, or consulting activities established for emerging creators.
- The development stage of a short film project can extend over a maximum period of 12 months from the date of acceptance. If the 12-month window is not respected, the project may be rejected for the production stage.
- The development stage of a feature-length fiction film, or a medium-length or feature-length documentary, can extend over a maximum period of 24 months from the date of acceptance. If the 24-month window is not respected, the project may be rejected for the production stage.

At the time of applying for production

- Project applications for production must be submitted during the fiscal year in which the development is completed. After this deadline, a project may be rejected for the production stage.
- The overall production budget for a feature-length fiction film may not exceed \$2.5 million.
- In general, submitting a project for production must be done before the first day of filming.
- A project rejected at the production stage cannot be resubmitted to the emerging talent program.

Note: Before applying for production, the company must refer to the guidelines of the tax measure ([Crédit d'impôt remboursable pour la production cinématographique et télévisuelle québécoise](#)) so that the refundable tax credit can be included in the financial structure.

Specific requirements for coproductions

Interprovincial and international coproductions are not admissible under this program.

Coproduction with the National Film Board of Canada

Coproductions with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB) are not eligible for this program at the development stage. At the production stage, in the case of a coproduction with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), the project is eligible provided that the [Québec production company](#) holds, at the time of application, at least 51% of the intellectual property rights for the production.

The NFB's combined contributions, in addition to its investment as a minority coproducer, including a guaranteed minimum distribution fee, a broadcast license for the NFB.ca

distribution platform or any other form of contribution, may not exceed 49% of the total production budget

For any coproduction with the NFB, if the NFB wishes to hold the distribution or broadcast rights for the production, the rights transferred to the NFB must be the subject of a separate agreement, to the satisfaction of SODEC, considering the characteristics and commercial potential of the project.

SODEC assistance is allocated to the portion of production under the responsibility of the [Québec company](#).

Project evaluation

Evaluations are only carried out on projects that comply with the program's general and specific eligibility requirements.

All requests for financial assistance are submitted to evaluation committees for analysis and recommendation. These committees are composed of SODEC professionals or industry representatives with recognized expertise in the audiovisual industry.

SODEC is particularly attentive to the coherence of the various components of a project and analyzes the following elements more specifically:

- **At the development stage**
 - the synopsis for a dramatic work or the brief proposal for a documentary (scene-by-scene descriptions and screenplays are not eligible);
 - the notes or a video outlining the creative team's intentions;
 - the company's track record;
 - the experience of all producers, screenwriters and, if applicable, directors in relation to the type of project submitted;
 - the budget and financing structure of the project under development;
 - the discoverability strategy tailored to the specificities of the project.
- **At the production stage**
 - the final version of the script for a work of fiction or the final proposal for a documentary;
 - the notes or a video presenting the creative team's intentions;
 - the creative portfolio (storyboard, mood board, artistic direction sketches, demos, etc.);
 - the experience of all producers, directors and screenwriters in relation to the type of project submitted;
 - the budget and financing structure of the project in production;
 - the financial viability of the project and the company's capacity to successfully complete the project;
 - the discoverability strategy deployed by the producer or distributor;
 - in the case of a feature film, SODEC favours applications accompanied by a letter of interest from an eligible distributor;

At the production stage, SODEC generally does not accept projects where the deferred portion of salaries exceeds 50%.

To meet the general objectives of the program, projects are evaluated along three main areas:

- **From a creative perspective:** the interest and support generated by the overall proposal, as well as its state of completion, in order to identify high-quality, original, engaging and diverse projects with the potential to gain recognition in Québec or abroad; the impact of the subject and the effectiveness of the narrative structure for fiction or the discursive structure for documentaries; the portrayal of fictional characters or the relevance of documentary contributors, and their ability to elicit emotion, reflection or identification; the effectiveness of the proposed treatment; the impact of the proposed directorial treatment; the quality of the production management; and the experience of the producers and filmmakers.
- **From a financial perspective:** the state of progress of the financial structure, the amount requested from SODEC in relation to the budget, the diversity of financial partners and the producer's investment.
- **From a commercialization perspective:** the actions undertaken by the producer or distributor to ensure discoverability, accessibility and visibility for the project.

SODEC reserves the right to require the applicant to hire a producer consultant or [advisors](#) to assist with the screenwriting or directing of a project.

Financial contribution

Type of funding

SODEC's financial contribution is provided by way of a grant.

Funding amounts

Development stage

At the development stage, SODEC's participation can reach a maximum of:

- \$15,000 for a short film, including the services of a story consultant;
- \$25,000 for a medium-length or feature-length documentary, including the services of a story consultant.
- \$35,000 for a feature-length fiction film, including the services of a story consultant.

In the case of an animation project, SODEC's participation may be increased by 25%.

Production stage

At the production stage, the cumulative participation of SODEC (including any previous funding granted by SODEC at the development stage) may reach a maximum of:

- \$115,000 for a short film;
- \$138,000 for a medium-length or feature-length documentary;
- \$750,000 for a feature-length fiction film.

SODEC takes into account the financial participation of other public and private stakeholders when calculating the funding amount.

Based on the financial information submitted for the production stage, SODEC's financial contribution may be increased:

- by an additional maximum amount of \$5,000 for the hiring of a consultant linked to one or more facets of the production process;
- and by an additional maximum amount of \$7,000 to finance the project's discoverability strategy, provided that the project includes, in its production budget, a minimum of five discoverability actions from the list mentioned in the commercialization strategy template ([Stratégie d'exploitation](#)) available on the [SODEC website](#), together with the mandatory presence of a set photographer.

SODEC's available financial resources, along with funding already received from other partners, are always taken into consideration during the decision-making process.

SODEC assigns at least 80% of the funds allocated to the emerging talent program to projects whose original version is in French.

Payment terms

The terms, schedule and obligations relating to payments are specified in the financial agreement signed with SODEC.

Entrepreneurial support initiatives

To support the professional development of companies, SODEC can organize and finance coaching activities, on its own initiative or in partnership with industry professionals, Québec companies or professional associations.

Eligible expenses

Information regarding eligible expenses and the documents required for applying are provided on the [SODEC website](#).

Legal deposit

Under section 20.9.1 of the [Act respecting Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec](#) (C.Q.L.R., c. B-1.2), the applicant company must, within six months of the first public showing of the final version of the production, deposit a copy of the film, free of charge, with the Cinémathèque québécoise. It is the producer's responsibility to ensure that the film copy deposited complies with the specifications for the legal deposit of digital files as

required in the [instructions for the legal deposit of digital films](#) on the Cinémathèque québécoise website.

Consequently, producers must include in their production budget, for any file submitted to SODEC, the costs of producing a copy that complies with the required specifications for legal deposit. Québec minority coproductions are not subject to this obligation.

Company obligations

All financial assistance is conditional on compliance with the program and the terms of the financial assistance agreement signed with SODEC. Furthermore, the company must comply with the conditions and obligations of any previous SODEC assistance program.

SODEC reserves the right to request any information or document deemed necessary to process and manage files, as well as all supporting documents related to expenses reported by the company.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINES

Applications are submitted through SOD@ccès, our secure online portal.

When submitting an application, all required documents must be included, as detailed on the [SODEC website](#).

The project deadline dates are available on the [SODEC website](#).

A handling and assessment fee is payable for each project at the time of submission. The fees are:

- \$50 plus applicable taxes for short films and medium-length or feature-length documentaries;
- \$350 plus applicable taxes for feature films.

Interpretation

In the event of any discrepancy in the interpretation of the programs between an applicant and SODEC, the interpretation provided by SODEC takes precedence.

For information on the various assistance programs and components administered by the audiovisual development and production department, visit:

<https://sodec.gouv.qc.ca/domaines-dintervention/cinema-et-television/>.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions apply to the development program, the production program and the emerging talent program.

Eligible companies

Québec-based companies are eligible for funding under the general or specific requirements of the various funding programs.

However, the following are not eligible for the development, production and emerging talent programs:

- a broadcasting company licensed under the Broadcasting Act (R.S.C., c. B-9);
- a company that becomes a licensee under the Act during the tax year in which the application for funding is submitted to SODEC;
- a company that has held such a license during the 24 months preceding the tax year in which the application for funding is submitted to SODEC;
- a company that, during the tax year in which the application for funding is submitted to SODEC, or that, in the 24 months preceding that tax year, controls a licensee under the Act or is controlled, in fact or in law, directly or indirectly, by a licensee under the Act.

Furthermore, a production company which, during the tax year in which the application for funding is submitted to SODEC, or which, in the 24 months preceding that tax year, holds a minority interest in a broadcasting company or in a company in which a broadcaster holds a minority interest, may access SODEC funds only for productions that are not destined for broadcast by the related broadcaster during the production's first cycle of commercial exploitation.

Consultant

By consultant, SODEC means specialists with no connection to the production or the production company, whose role is to advise one or more members of the team on specific areas of activity with which they are not yet familiar. Please note that the consultant cannot be a member of the team whose position is already specified in the production budget, nor a shareholder of the production company.

Production budget

Detailed document outlining projected expenses to produce the work, including development, pre-production, shooting, post-production and overhead costs.

Documentary

Any audiovisual production that represents reality in a non-fictional way, which provides information and analysis on a subject, can be considered a documentary.

Where documentary production is concerned, SODEC invests in documentaries that are thoroughly researched, have a strong editorial point of view, and have the potential to be of lasting interest. The cinematographic treatment must be original and clearly distinguishable from the strictly informative thematic program.

Author-driven documentary

The author-driven documentary complies with the general definition of a documentary while displaying the following distinctive characteristics:

- the documentary project is based on original narrative and cinematographic constructions and a subject treatment that are clearly marked by the director's personal vision; the project generally follows in the footsteps of his or her previous works;
- the director is generally the project initiator; he or she controls the editorial and creative content at every stage of the project's development and production, right up to the release print, in partnership with the producer who supports him or her in the creative process.

Québec company

For the purposes of the funding programs in the audiovisual production and development department, a Québec company is one that meets the following requirements:

- it is registered in Québec; its head office and its main establishment are also located in Québec;
- two thirds of the administrators have their [tax residence in Québec](#);
 - a) for corporations: two thirds of the voting shares entitling to elect the majority of the administrators are held by Canadian citizens or permanent residents who have their [tax residence in Québec](#); if more than one third of the voting shares of the applicant company's share capital are held by a legal entity, this entity must satisfy the requirement listed above;
 - b) for other types of companies: two thirds of the members who can elect the majority of the administrators are Canadian citizens or permanent residents that have their [tax residence in Québec](#).

A sole proprietorship does not qualify as a Québec company.

This definition applies to all programs in the audiovisual production and development department.

These companies must also meet the eligibility criteria for companies and any specific conditions that may be indicated in the programs.

Fiscal year

SODEC's fiscal year begins on April 1st of each year and ends on March 31st of the following year.

Commercialization

Commercialization refers to the steps involved in the marketing and distribution of a production on national and international markets, across all distribution channels.

Film

A work produced using technical means and resulting in a cinematographic effect, regardless of the medium.

Runtimes

SHORT FILM: films of 30 minutes or less.

MEDIUM-LENGTH FILM: films between 31 and 74 minutes.

FEATURE FILM: films of 75 minutes or more.

Principal place of business

The principal place of business is where the company's central management and control are effectively exercised.

Québec production

SODEC funds audiovisual works whose primary market is Québec and which meet the following conditions (by the term "overall", SODEC indicates at least 75% of the film's components):

- **Condition 1:** Overall, screenwriting fees (excluding rights purchases), must be paid to a person or persons whose [tax residence](#) is in Québec.
- **Condition 2:** Overall, expenses related to acting fees, except for extras, as well as those related to the technical crew during pre-production, production and post-production (including residual rights and fringe benefits) must be paid to persons whose [tax residence](#) is in Québec.
- **Condition 3:** Overall, equipment and technical services required for project production must be purchased or leased in Québec.
- **Condition 4:** Overall, directing fees must be paid to a person or persons whose [tax residence](#) is in Québec.
- **Condition 5:** Projects must be produced by a Québec-based company and producer, and all producer fees (including, but not limited to, executive, associate

and line producers) must be paid to persons whose [tax residence](#) is in Québec. All rights and options required to enable development, production, representation and commercialization, without any territorial limitation, must be held by the company. Without limiting the foregoing, these rights include, among others, the rights to produce the project in all languages, in all formats and by all methods, as well as the rights to present and commercialization rights in all known and future media.

- **Condition 6:** Projects must be distributed in Québec by a Québec distribution company, who must hold all or a substantial portion of the project's distribution rights in Québec and a general distribution license issued by the ministère de la Culture et des Communications. Films distributed in Québec by a Québec distributor under a sub-distribution agreement are not eligible.

These criteria apply to all projects submitted to SODEC, whether at the development, production or post-production stage, and must always be met.

SODEC may waive the application of this policy when specific production conditions require it, for example:

- in the case of labour (condition 2) or technical services (condition 3), when the script or documentary project requires filming primarily abroad; these productions may be granted additional flexibility allowing for up to 5% in additional out-of-Québec cost for these conditions; or
- in the case of performance fees (condition 2), if the inclusion of an actor whose [tax residence](#) is not in Québec brings to the production significant private-sector financial participation from markets outside Québec. By significant financial participation, SODEC means a financial contribution in the form of a distribution advance or a presale from markets outside Québec, used to finance the production or the Québec portion in the case of a coproduction; this financial participation must reach at least the higher of the two following amounts:
 - the equivalent of labour costs incurred outside Québec exceeding the 25% allowed under condition 2; or
 - \$75,000 for productions with a budget of less than \$4,000,000 or \$150,000 for productions with a budget of \$4,000,000 or more.

In either of these cases, the producer must send SODEC an official request, accompanied by a duly completed declaration of costs outside Québec form ([Déclaration des coûts hors Québec](#)), available on the SODEC website.

Subject to the provisions of the refundable Québec tax credit for film or television production services program, the costs of acquiring visual archival rights and music rights may be excluded from the calculation of costs outside Québec.

In the case of a coproduction, SODEC assistance is granted for the Québec portion of the production, provided the above conditions are met.

SODEC may accept that the distribution rights for a Québec project in territories other than Québec be marketed by a non-Québec company. In such cases, the company must have a proven track record in foreign markets for this type of production.

For any coproduction with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB), and in the event that the NFB wishes to hold the distribution or broadcast rights for the production, the rights transferred to the NFB must be the subject of a separate agreement, to the satisfaction of SODEC, taking into account the characteristics and commercial potential of the project, in accordance with the conditions of the production assistance programs for coproductions with the National Film Board of Canada (NFB).

Rewriting

The rewriting of a screenplay that results from a major transformation of the story, structure, characters or dialogues, particularly following the transfer of the project rights to a different production company (unrelated to the transferring company [[Définition d'entreprises reliées](#)]), or following the appointment of a new director, or following the continuation of the project by a new scriptwriting team.

Ethical rules for cultural activities and projects

SODEC does not accept projects that contravene laws and regulations, or that run counter to government policies, particularly regarding violence, sexism, pornography or discrimination. SODEC encourages compliance with the codes of ethics of associations.

Tax residence in Québec

For programs administered by the audiovisual production and development department, SODEC considers a Québec tax resident to be any individual declaring and having declared income in Québec during the two years preceding the submission of an application to SODEC.

Eligible broadcaster

An eligible broadcaster is defined as a broadcaster holding an operating license issued under the [Broadcasting Act \(R.S.C., c. B-9\)](#), under which the film will be broadcast in the main regions of Québec.

GENERAL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

SODEC compiles a master file ([Dossier maître](#)) for each company with which it has dealings. Companies applying for the first time must provide the information required to open their file. In all other cases, companies must provide updated information and are responsible for notifying SODEC of any major changes regarding their company and shareholders (if applicable). Furthermore, companies must also provide the information required by the program for which they are applying. The list of required documents for the master file is available on the [SODEC website](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Program review and SODEC studies

SODEC periodically conducts program evaluations and various studies to adjust its intervention strategy or tools to meet the needs of cultural enterprises. To this end, companies that have received financial assistance under this program must provide all records, documents or other information required in this regard for a period of five years following said financial participation by SODEC. The collected information is kept confidential, and only aggregated data may be published and distributed by SODEC.

Specific regional agreements

SODEC may sign specific agreements with regional organizations to achieve regional development objectives. In such cases, SODEC will join forces with partners who are able to contribute to the growth of cultural enterprises.

Information return to the ministère du Revenu

Please note that SODEC will file an information return with the ministère du Revenu in respect of any contractual payment or grant made to a corporation or partnership, and to this end will send any beneficiary an RL-27 slip listing the amounts remitted over the course of the year.

Sustainable development

SODEC promotes the development of green and responsible business models and practices.