



CALL FOR PROJECTS PROTOTYPING OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH ANIMATION SERIES

This call for projects supports prototyping of animation series for young audiences in Quebec.

The purpose is to facilitate the financing of Quebec-made intellectual properties targeted for young audiences.¹

The program is a partnership between the Société de développement des entreprises culturelles ([SODEC](#)), as part of their strategic project program, and the Canada Media Fund ([CMF](#)).

Objectives

- Accelerate the creation of Quebec original intellectual property for animated television series for young audiences
- Facilitate the funding of animation series for young audiences for broadcasters, distributors, and other national and international partners

Eligibility criteria

Eligible applicants

- Be a legally incorporated for-profit company whose main activity is audiovisual production
- Have their head office and principal place of business² in Quebec, and demonstrate that effective control of the company is majority held by Canadian citizens or permanent residents having their tax residence in Quebec
- Have been in operation for at least two years, and have appropriate professional experience in animated audiovisual production for young audiences

The following are not eligible:

- Sole proprietorships
- Companies receiving financial support from SODEC under the [Corporate Television Production Assistance Program](#)

An eligible company, including its related companies, may submit only one application to this call for projects.

¹ The term “young audiences” includes pre-school, primary, and secondary school-age audiences.

² The expression “head office and principal place of business” denotes the place where the decision-making centre is located and the actual management of the company is conducted.

Eligible projects

This program is open to prototyping projects for animated TV series aimed at young audiences.³

To be eligible, the animation series for young audiences being prototyped must meet all of the following criteria:

- The project must be an original content, created and developed in Quebec for a first season.
- At least one episode of the series must be fully scripted.
- The applicant company must hold all the rights and options essential for development and production of the prototyping project.

The prototyping project can include writing the synopsis for the episodes, as well as scripting two additional episodes, provided that the development of these episodes has not received financial support from some other SODEC or CMF assistance program and has not yet begun. The writing and screenwriting of the first episode, however, may be supported by another SODEC or CMF program.

Financial contribution

Assistance is provided jointly by SODEC and the CMF for the purpose of completing the prototyping project and, where applicable, screenwriting of two additional episodes, within 12 months of signing the respective agreements with SODEC and the CMF.

To be eligible for support, the project must be:

- Developed and storyboarded in French
- Translated and dubbed into French

Funding may cover up to 75% of all eligible costs, to a maximum of \$500,000, including up to \$50,000 for screenwriting of the two additional episodes and the synopsis of the episodes.

SODEC and the CMF will take into account the financial participation of other public stakeholders, and in all cases:

- The maximum cumulative amount of government assistance must not exceed 75% of the total project budget;
- The applicant company must assume at least 25% of the total project budget.

SODEC and the CMF will share the funding for each project. Two-thirds of the budget will be provided by SODEC, and last third by the CMF. Funding will be awarded in the form of a SODEC grant and a CMF non-repayable contribution.

³ SODEC encourages compliance with associations' codes of ethics and, in keeping with the ethical norms that apply to cultural activities and projects, SODEC will not accept projects that contravene existing laws and regulations or are contrary to government policy, particularly with regard to violence, sexism, pornography, or discrimination.

Eligible costs

Prototyping project expenses eligible for support in this program cannot be funded by any other SODEC or CMF financial assistance program.

At least 90% of all eligible project expenses must be incurred in Quebec.

- Option-extension of rights
- Rights for use or reproduction
- Screenwriting fees and benefits (SARTEC, WGC, etc.)
- Head screenwriter (script, editing)
- Screenwriting consultant(s)
- Researcher
- Director
- Script bible
- Presentation Bible
- Storyboarding and graphics
- Casting (distribution) and voice recording
- Visual development (research, references, design)
- Technical development (methodology, testing, technology options)
- Trailer
- Full animatics or complete episode, or hybrid animatics including animated sequences
- Market testing
- Post-test adjustments
- Musical score
- Sound design
- Editing, mixing, calibration
- Additional presentation material
- Dubbing and translation
- Legal fees (not to exceed \$10,000)
- Producer's fees (not to exceed 10% of budget)
- Corporate overhead (not to exceed 10% of budget)

The following are not eligible:

- expenses incurred prior to the date of application;
- operational expenses incurred as part of ongoing activities;
- per diems and representation expenses;
- recurring costs such as annual subscription fees and software upgrades.

Terms of payment

The applicant company will sign two financing agreements: one with SODEC and one with the CMF.

Payment terms for SODEC:

- 85% of the funding will be paid upon signature of the agreement
- 15% of the funding will be paid on completion of all project-related activities. This payment is conditional on submission of all deliverables related to the prototyping project, as specified in the agreement, as well as the submission to and acceptance by SODEC of the final cost report and a summary.

Payment terms for the CMF:

- 100 % of the funding will be paid upon signature of the agreement⁴ and receipt of the signed agreement with SODEC.

The terms of payment may be subject to change, depending on the nature or complexity of certain projects.

For SODEC, payments are always conditional on the availability of funds and on appropriate and sufficient appropriations as approved by the National Assembly.

Evaluation criteria

Applications are first analyzed by SODEC professionals, and assessments are discussed with the CMF for final joint decision-making. If necessary, SODEC may seek external advice.

Applications are evaluated at the level of the applicant companies and the prototyping projects submitted.

Company evaluation

Companies are evaluated based on:

- International experience in foreign markets: presence, main territories and types of sales made, international sales and influence in these markets;
- Financial health of the company.

Project evaluation

Priority will be given to projects that show exceptional potential to stand out in the marketplace and reach their target audience. More specifically, the project must satisfy the following evaluation criteria:

- Value proposition
- Commercial potential
- Feasibility

SODEC and the CMF encourage companies to develop projects that reflect Quebec's cultural diversity, and to adopt eco-responsible practices in implementing their projects. These aspects may be used to decide between projects of equal quality.

⁴ Applicant company whose project is accepted will be required to register for a CMF [PERSONA-ID](#) self-identification account.

Submission of applications

All applications must be submitted using the secure electronic filing portal SOD@ccès. If this is the applicant's first visit, click the "Register" button on the homepage. Then select the program number **30-56-02**.

Please complete the online application form and submit the following required documents by **November 4th, 2024**.

- List of documents to be completed
 - [Prototyping template](#) [only in French] (4 tabs: project information, Financial structure, budget, Deliverables) (template available in SOD@ccès);
 - Detailed Prototyping budget;
 - Script for first episode;
 - Option contract(s) or rights contract(s) for the series and project;
 - Adaptation contract, if applicable;
 - Co-production contract, if applicable;
 - Any other relevant contract, if applicable;
 - Document confirming financial support or proof of interest from a broadcaster, distributor or any other national or international financial partner;
 - [Declaration by the applicant company](#) [only in French] (available in SOD@ccès);
 - Company's most recent annual financial statements;
 - Organization chart of the company and its related companies;
 - Any other document required and relevant to the analysis of the application;
 - Updated documents for the company's master file (the complete list is specified in SOD@ccès).

Information

If you have any questions about the program, please email services.financiers@sodec.gouv.qc.ca.