

EQUITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM GUIDELINES AND CHECKLIST

Objective

We are the Harold Greenberg Fund/Fonds Harold Greenberg (Fund/Fonds), a national funding organization that supports the development of Canadian dramatic feature films.

We represent the English-Language Program (Fund) and are partners with the French-Language Program (Fonds). We help support:

- Script Development: *(see separate guidelines)*
- Equity Investment
- Industry Initiatives

For the Equity Investment program, the Fund may invest up to 10% of the total production budget, to a maximum of \$150,000 on any single project. **NOTE: Only projects previously supported in development are eligible to apply.**

Please review the guidelines and checklist. Feel free to contact us with any questions, and be sure to contact us to find out if funds are still available for the fiscal year and when would be the best time to apply.

Our Sponsors



Submitting an Application

All applications must be submitted through our online submission system accessible at bellmedia.ca

Evaluation Process

Evaluations of scripts are conducted by employees of the Harold Greenberg Fund as well as independent, professional script readers who provide the Fund with written assessments. All submissions are reviewed for the quality of the script (concept and content), production viability, the target audience and suitability for theatrical distribution and eventual broadcast on pay TV.

There are no formal deadlines for the Equity Investment program. Please contact the Fund to assess the threshold eligibility of the particular project and the timing of when the Fund will receive an application. An Equity Investment application will be considered only once.

A Committee of the Fund's Board of Directors is responsible for all funding decisions. The Committee meets periodically to review applications as they come in. **All decisions of the Committee are final.** The Fund will not provide creative feedback or written reports for projects that have not received funding.

The Fund's decision on each application is issued in writing within 10 weeks of the application deadline. If an application is approved, the Fund issues an approval letter, followed by an offer to provide funding. The offer is revoked if the Fund's Equity Loan Agreement is not signed within six weeks of the Fund's offer. If an application is not approved, the Fund emails the contact person as indicated on the application form.

Financial Terms

The Fund may invest up to 10% of the total production budget, to a maximum of \$150,000 on any single project.

Payments are advanced as follows: 60% on start of principal photography and receipt of all necessary documents, 30% on rough cut screening, credit approval and receipt of all necessary documents, 5% on receipt of DVD version of the final

film and all necessary documents and the final 5% on receipt of the final audited statements and all closing documentation.

The Fund's total investment must be recouped no worse than pro rata and pari passu with all other investors. The Fund is also entitled to a pro rata share of the net profits from the film.

Pay TV Terms

The Fund's Development Loan Agreement contains terms concerning the availability of any film based upon the treatment or script for eventual broadcast on pay TV. The Movie Network has the right of first refusal and last negotiation for Eastern Canada pay TV rights within the regular order of exhibition windows. The successful applicant will make final draft scripts available to The Movie Network for pre-licensing considerations.

Contact Us

Telephone: 416-384-3446

E-mail: alan.bacchus@bellmedia.ca

Website: www.bellmedia.ca

Applicant Eligibility

Applicant is a Canadian producer.

Applicant (and, if applicable, co-applicant) must hold the rights to the project.

Applicant has a minimum of two long-form narrative credits as producer or executive producer. Within the past seven years, one of these long-form credits must have been had its initial release or broadcast premiere in the past seven years

The following qualifies as a long-form (at least 75 mins in length), dramatic credit:

- Theatrically-released by a third party distributor dramatic feature film
- Dramatic television movie
- Made for pay TV movie
- Mini series

NOTE: Feature length documentaries do not qualify

Projects involving two co-applicants (must be co-owners of the property) are permitted, as long as at least one satisfies the minimum credit requirements.

Executive producers who don't own the property can satisfy the minimum credit requirements, but must have signed an agreement with the applicant.

Un-incorporated groups or individuals can apply. If they are successful in receiving support, articles of incorporation will then be required. The Fund will only contract with an incorporated company.

Project Eligibility

- ☐ Applicant contacted the Fund to assess threshold eligibility and the timing of when the Fund will accept an application.
- ☐ The project is feature length (at least 75min in duration)
- ☐ **The project has received prior development funding from the Fund (Script Development Program or Story Optioning Program)**

NOTE: projects that have not received prior development assistance from The Fund are not eligible for Equity Investment

- ☐ If this is an official treaty co-production, it will be certified as at least 40% Canadian by principal photography.
- ☐ Otherwise, the project will be certified by CAVCO as an 8 out of 10 Canadian production by principal photography - and it must also be at least 8 out of 10 on the Canadian Content point system.
- ☐ The copyright of the film is owned by a Canadian corporation or Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
- ☐ Distribution Requirements:
 - For projects with budgets \$2.5m and over: a recognized Canadian theatrical distributor is contracted to distribute the film in Canada.
 - For projects with budgets under \$2.5m: a Canadian distributor is not required
- ☐ All the funding sources are confirmed or currently under formal review and negotiation.
- ☐ It meets the conditions under the document "Pay Television Standards and Practices" including not going beyond an "R" rating.
- ☐ The script has been supplied in the English language. Foreign language projects are eligible. However, all scripts must be submitted in English so that they can properly assessed.

Supporting Document Checklist (as PDFs zipped into one .zip file):

Production Documents:

- ☐ Production schedule.
- ☐ Cast and crew lists, all signed cast and crew letters of commitment (including any escrow requirements). Please indicate if cast and crew are confirmed or not.
- ☐ Detailed production budget in industry standard form.

Resumes/Corporate Documents:

- ☐ Resume's for the following individuals: -Director (s), Producer(s), Screenwriter(s), Key Cast
- ☐ Co-production agreement (Int'l or inter-prov) with producing partner, if applicable.
- ☐ Application for official treaty co-production status, if applicable.
- ☐ Articles of incorporation of applicant's production company. Please ensure that a listing of all directors and officers of the applicant production company is included.

Chain Of Title:

- ☐ All documentation evidencing the applicant's sole and clear ownership and control of the film production and distribution rights to the script, including the film adaptation, production and distribution rights to any underlying property upon which the script may be based, adapted from, or suggested by.

Financing:

- ☐ Evidence of all committed or proposed production financing, a status report on the negotiations with proposed financial participants in the film, and all tax credits calculations.

- ☐ Agreements with distributor(s) and, if applicable broadcaster(s) (if applicable). Marketing plans and sales and revenue projections for domestic and foreign markets. Must include P&A amount from distributor.
- ☐ Financing plan and recoupment schedule.

Creative Material:

- ☐ One-sentence logline.
- ☐ Producer's evaluation indicating marketplace potential, target audience and comparative films.
- ☐ One page story synopsis (creative names removed).
- ☐ Latest script. At least 75 pages in length, with version and draft date positioned underneath the title (creative names removed).
- ☐ Director's notes/vision (creative names removed).
- ☐ URL link to sample of the director's previous work.