

The NFB's documentary, animated and feature films are shown in theatres and on television. They are also available through the NFB's offices across Canada to members of the public, educators and community associations wishing to borrow, rent or purchase them in 16 mm or on video cassettes. The NFB also produces slide presentations, filmstrips and other documents to meet the needs of the education sector.

Recently, the NFB has been especially interested in research and development in the area of film and video technology, and in the establishment of training programs for young film-makers. In addition, the NFB is establishing 12 Canadian audio-visual centres, six of which will contain production, marketing and distribution offices.

The productions of the National Film Board of Canada are also distributed worldwide through the Board's offices in New York, London, Paris and Montreal.

15.7.2 Telefilm Canada

Telefilm Canada, formerly known as the Canadian Film Development Corporation, was established by the federal government in 1967. The Corporation aims to foster and promote the development of a feature-film industry and an independent television production industry in Canada. Telefilm currently operates two broad categories of programs — one related to the feature-film industry, and the other related to independent television production — each with different eligibility requirements.

Feature film. The Feature Film Fund is designed to stimulate investment in the production and distribution of high-quality, culturally relevant Canadian dramatic feature films, made by the private sector, and destined for commercial theatrical release.

Telefilm Canada may participate financially in the development, production and marketing of productions. In order to activate the Corporation's financial participation, there must exist a contract between an eligible producer and an eligible distributor guaranteeing the film's theatrical release in Canada within one year of completion.

In addition to supporting individual projects, Telefilm Canada may also direct its financial participation to eligible companies on packages of projects. The Corporation will provide assistance to develop international co-productions and pre-sales, and to enhance the foreign sales and promotion of Canadian productions. Productions financed through the Feature Film Fund cannot be financed through the Canadian Broadcast Program Development Fund, nor vice-versa.

Financial assistance through the Feature Film Fund is intended to complement other sources of production and distribution financing and may be negotiated as equity investment, long-term corporate loans, secured loans or non-interest bearing advances. A Versioning Assistance Fund is also administered by Telefilm Canada.

Script and project development. The Corporation provides recoverable advances to producers so that scripts may be prepared, budgets developed, and directors and performers secured.

Interim financing. Interim loans allow producers to begin production before equity financing is in place. Canadian distributors and foreign sales companies can also access the Interim Financing Fund.

The International Marketing Assistance Fund was established to help increase the competitiveness of Canadian productions in the international marketplace, and to enhance the visibility of Canadian foreign sales companies and to assist them in developing their marketing and promotional strategies. Finally, the festivals office is responsible for co-ordinating Canadian participation in film festivals around the world and for establishing national film representation abroad. It also administers a grants program to Canadian Film Festivals.

Independent television production. The Corporation participates financially in the Canadian Broadcast Program Development Fund, by means of equity investment, secured loans or loan guarantees, in high-quality Canadian productions in the categories of drama, variety, documentary and children's programming. Each project must meet Telefilm Canada Canadian-content standards and must have secured a guarantee from a Canadian over-the-air broadcaster to broadcast the program within two years of completion. For the purpose of the Canadian Broadcast Program Development Fund, Canadian over-the-air broadcasters are understood to be the CBC/Radio-Canada, all private over-the-air stations or networks and provincial educational authorities which hold a television broadcasting licence.

Co-productions. Canada has official co-production treaties with 10 countries: France, Israel, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Algeria, Spain, Czechoslovakia and China. Such treaties allow producers from two or more countries to share in the creative, technical, and financial aspects of a production while enjoying the benefits accorded a national production in each country (such as direct aid, tax incentives, and quota system).