

NIFCO is pleased to announce the guidelines for the Industry Partner Stream of [Telefilm Canada's Talent to Watch](#) program 2022. **Talent to Watch** supports emerging filmmakers looking to finance the production stage of their first feature film project. As an Industry Partner, NIFCO has the ability to nominate one production in the Main component and one production in the Indigenous component. **The Deadline to Submit to NIFCO is MONDAY April 11th, 5pm.** Nomination decisions will be made by a peer jury and communicated by late April.

Teams nominated by NIFCO will then re-apply directly to Telefilm to be considered in the national competition. Successful candidates from the national competition will receive \$250,000 for fictional features and \$150,000 for documentary features in funding from Telefilm, and a mentorship program to support the film's production offered through the National Screen Institute.

There are two streams that do not need a recommendation from NIFCO through which filmmakers can apply directly to Telefilm: the Filmmaker Apply Direct Stream and the Festival Selection Stream. For more information about qualifying for those streams please visit the Telefilm website. <https://telefilm.ca/en/financing/talent-to-watch>

Project Eligibility

This fund supports fictional and documentary projects. The films must be produced in English, French or an Indigenous language* and must be 75 minutes or more in length.

Please consult the Telefilm Website for all Applicant/Team Eligibility.

Your application must contain the following:

- 1) Completed Screenplay suitable for a feature film
- 2) Presentation Video – **PLEASE CONTACT ANNA PETRAS TO DISCUSS IN ADVANCE**
 - A downloadable pitch video of a maximum of 5 minutes that will:
 - a) state the project's working title.
 - b) identify the genre, the type, and the length of the project.
 - c) identify the key creative team involved in the project and their individual track records (including samples of past work if applicable or relevant).
 - d) provide a brief synopsis of the story from beginning to end.
 - e) outline the creative team's vision/visual treatment of the material.
 - f) outline any other relevant information that sets the project apart (e.g.: personal connection to the story material, confirmed appearance by an established actor, successful crowdfunding campaign, relationship with VFX professionals or animators).
 - g) identify the target audience.
 - h) include 1-minute segment of the director's previous short films.

Note: The video must NOT include footage from other projects that are not the team's own work.

- 3) Project Synopsis (max 750 words)

4) Director Vision (max 3 pages)

5) Promotion and Distribution Plan (max 2 pages)

This document must identify the project's audience (age, sex, sensibility, culture, etc.). It must also identify how the team will find and access this audience and why they will connect with the project.

6) Track Record for Producer, Writer and Director

7) Production Schedule (from pre-production to release)

Schedule should indicate how the team plans to start principal photography within 18 months of being selected by Telefilm at the national level.

8) Budget Top Sheet

9) Financing Structure

Telefilm provides a non-repayable contribution of \$250,000 for fictional films and \$150,000 for documentaries. Other potential sources of funding might include: NLFDC, Arts NL, or team fundraising and Inkind/deferrals. The total financing for the project cannot exceed \$500,000.

10) Community Engagement Plan (if applicable)

This document is an opportunity for the filmmaking team to demonstrate a plan for how they will responsibly engage with any underrepresented communities that will be impacted by the project.

Please email Anna Petras, NIFCO Program Director at picturestart@nifco.org in advance of the deadline if you intend to submit as well as for any questions. Submissions must be received via email to picturestart@nifco.org in the form of a link to a shared folder (can be private please provide password) by 5pm on MONDAY April 11th, 2022. Please do not submit any paper copies to NIFCO.

We urge you to read all guidelines as well as the essential information document carefully on the Talent to Watch page of the Telefilm Canada Website - <https://telefilm.ca/en/financing/talent-to-watch>