



DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Revised December 2010

1. Is a stand-alone website without a television program eligible for funding?

No. The Bell Fund's specific mandate is to encourage the convergence of traditional broadcasting and new media production. Therefore all projects **MUST** have 2 components: a television program under development or licensed with a Canadian broadcaster as well as an associated new media project in development.

2. Are 2 different companies required to produce the television and new media projects?

Both components may be produced by the same production company, by two different production companies, or as co-productions. If ownership/rights are shared, it is considered a co-production and both companies are the producers.

3. Is my project eligible if I have already started principal photography on the television show?

Yes, although for the new media component only as there is no funding for the television show in the development stage.

4. Can I apply for development and production at the same time?

No. The purpose of the development fund is to help prepare a project for a production application. Therefore, the applications must be made at separate deadlines.

5. What is an average development budget?

The Bell Fund will fund up to 75% of the costs of development, to a maximum of \$50,000. The projects funded recently in the development phase have been budgeted between \$30,000 and \$100,000. For more information, please read the "Development Budget FAQs"

6. How do I fund the other 25% of the new media development budget?

Typical funding scenarios to date include the Bell Fund, sometimes CMF, some provincial agencies, broadcasters, producer investments, and producer deferrals.

7. How are projects evaluated?

The Bell Fund contracts new media industry experts to evaluate each of the applications based on a list of criteria. The evaluators then discuss the projects together, prioritize them, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board makes all final decisions.

Download the Development Program - Evaluation Information document for further information ("Application Forms")

8. When will I know if I am to receive funding?

Decisions will be announced 2-3 weeks following each deadline.

9. If the Bell Fund does not award funding for my project, can I have the material sent back?

Yes. You may indicate in your application cover letter that you would like us to return the proposal if it does not receive grant funding, or you may notify us by phone or e-mail after the decisions are made. When decisions are announced, we can discuss how you would like it returned (e.g. courier at producer's expense, mail, office pick up).

10. Can I apply again if my project has been rejected?

Yes, but with some requirements: There must be significant changes to the project, and these changes must be clearly outlined/documentated in your reapplication.

11. I have received funding from the Bell Fund for development, but I would like to develop it further. Can I apply for more development funding?

No. The Bell Fund only funds projects once in the development stage.

12. Can you recommend good new media production companies?

Have a look at the web sites we have funded ("Funded Recipients") and at our annual reports to see which companies have received funding and which sites you like.