

RDVCANADA I Docs 2025
Call for projects
Rules and regulations

The 2025 RDVCANADA I Docs initiative is organized by Telefilm Canada and the Canada Media Fund, in collaboration with Sunny Side of the Doc, and in partnership with Black Screen Office, Creative BC, Ontario Creates and SODEC. It is the third iteration of the program dedicated to documentary content.

From April to June 2025, the selected Canadian producers will embark in two months of personalized mentorship and training (with a focus on international co-production and distribution – as well as pitching) in order to get ready to pitch their project to their future international partners.

The selected participants will then attend Sunny Side of the Doc from June 23 to 26, 2025. Set in sunny La Rochelle, France, the 36-year old market brings together the international documentary community in all its forms for an unmissable 4-day event. In addition to Sunny Side's rich program, the RDVCANADA I Docs cohort will participate in a series of networking activities with producers from key countries and exclusive meetings with decision makers.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, an applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

- be a **Canadian controlled corporation**, as determined under sections 26 to 28 of the [Investment Canada Act](#);
- be **represented during the initiative by a producer that is a Canadian citizen** within the definition of the [Citizenship Act](#) or a permanent resident within the definition of the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#);
- have its **head office in Canada** and carry out its activities in Canada;
- operate as an **audiovisual production company**;
- have **produced at least two documentary projects** distributed in theaters, broadcasted on a platform, conventional television station or selected in a festival;
- have a **documentary project in the development stage (one-off or series)** that could become an international co-production or intended for sale internationally;
- hold **financial and creative control** of the presented project, together with all copyrights and options necessary for its development and exploitation;

- must be **available to attend a series of online training workshops and mentoring consultations** between April and June 2025 - between 5 and 10 sessions total;
- must be **available to attend Sunny Side of the Doc in person** which will take place in La Rochelle, France from June 23 to 26, 2025.

Important note: Telefilm will offer one (1) complementary badge for Sunny Side of the Doc per producer selected. Telefilm Canada will not cover travel costs. Canadian producers can contact their provincial or professional organizations for travel financial assistance - subject to eligibility or pre-approved application (i.e.: Ontario Creates' Global Market Development program, Creative BC's Passport to Markets program).

SELECTION PROCESS

Telefilm Canada will select up to eight (8) applicants to participate in this initiative. Projects will be evaluated and selected by a jury of industry professionals and decision-making will be based on qualitative information in order to select the projects with the best potential to eventually (i) be produced as international treaty co-production between Canada and other foreign countries, and/or (ii) be sold in international markets. The following criteria will serve as a guide, and no specific weighting will be attributed to each of the components:

- Track record of the applicant production company;
- Strength and originality of story and narrative;
- Relevance and potential for international co-production and sales;
- Financial feasibility;
- The Applicant's objectives and motivations for participating in the initiative.

Moreover, decision-making will take into consideration Telefilm Canada's objective to foster a diversity of voices in the audiovisual industry. As such, Telefilm Canada may prioritize applications from certain regions of Canada.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Deadline to apply: Friday, April, 4th, 2025, 11:59 pm EST

The entire application process takes place via the [Sunny Side of the Doc projects submission platform](#) and must be completed in English only. **Please read the guidelines below carefully before applying.**

To submit your application on the [Sunny Side of the Doc platform](#), you must:

- **Step 1: Complete all required fields** regarding your profile and your project;
- **Step 2: Attach the required documents** (see next section 'REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS').
- **Step 3:** To submit your application, you will be directed to the application fee payment page. **RDVCANADA I Docs applicants are exempt from application fees by using the following promo code: [SSD25-PP-RDVCANADA](#)**

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- HD visual [\[Still or poster in landscape format, 10MB max., without text on it\]](#)
- Budget & financing plan [\[1 single PDF file, 10MB max.\]](#)
- RDVCANADA I Docs Questions [\[1 single PDF file, 10MB max.\]](#)

Please answer all the following questions in a single PDF pdf.

Your goals & motivations

- What are your company's short-term corporate objectives (over the next 2 years or so)?
- Briefly describe your previous experiences in the international marketplace (coproductions, distribution, international festivals selections, market attendance, participation in international residences or training programs...)
- What are your motivations for taking part in the RDVCANADA I Docs 2025 program?
- What do you think of Sunny Side of the Docs and why would you like to attend this year? (Please indicate this would be your first time attending)
- What would a successful Sunny Side of the Doc 2025 look like for you and your submitted project ?

Your project

- What co-producing countries are you specifically targeting for this project and why? (600 characters, spaces included)
- Who would be the ideal partners for this project (production companies, broadcasters, platforms, distributor - please name the company and country) and why? (600 characters, spaces included)

Should you have any questions about the application process, please contact:
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