

New Brunswick Film Co-op PRODUCTION POLICY

This document describes the process by which members may access production support from the NB Film Co-op. The support is only available to members in good standing.

What types of projects does the NB Film Co-op support?

The NB Film Co-op's Production Policy supports **workshop films** and **independent films**. See definitions below.

The NB Film Co-op's Production Policy does not support commercial productions made by members also known as Independent Contractor films. Independent Contractor films are those in which the member does not retain creative control over the project in regards to the script, editing or distribution of the project. These types of projects are only eligible to apply to the NB Film Co-op's Equipment Rental Policy.

What types of fees are charged for equipment access?

The NB Film Co-op will apply one of the fee levels described below for equipment access depending on the cash budget of the production:

Waived fees: members use equipment for free

Deferred fees: members use equipment with payment deferred into the future.

Rental fees: members pay for use of equipment.

Definition of Workshop and Independent films

Workshop film: The NB Filmmakers' Co-operative, in conjunction with its Training & Workshop and Production committees, may from time to time choose to produce a film or video as part of a regular series of training workshops. The object of such projects is to provide a practical training opportunity for a group of potential film/video makers and crew members. The NB Filmmakers' Co-operative owns the copyright for workshop films.

Independent film: An independent film is defined as a film in which the filmmaker (copyright holder) has creative control of the project's script, editing and dissemination. There is no differentiation between an emerging filmmaker or experienced filmmaker in this policy.

Definition of Independent Contractor films

Independent Contractor film: This would be any film where the creative control does not rest with the artist. Members pay for use of equipment. Workshop and Independent film productions, as defined above, always take precedence.

Criteria for determining fee levels for workshop and independent films.

Only NB Film Co-op workshop films are eligible for a waiver on fees as the NB Film Co-op owns the copyright on these productions.

Depending on the cash budget of the independent film under consideration, the NB Film Co-op will apply the following fee schedule (If, at any time, during the production the proposed project transitions into a different Cash Budget then it is subject to the Equipment Rate for the new, or final, Cash Budget amount):

<u>CASH BUDGET</u>	<u>EQUIPMENT RATES</u>
\$0 - \$5,000	Deferral
\$5,000 - \$10,000	Honorarium to NB Film Co-op (5% of cash budget), balance is a deferral
\$10,001-\$25,000	Independent rates, no deferral
\$25,000 plus	Commercial rates, no deferral

Deferral Fee definition - Deferral means to put off to a future time. In this case, a deferral fee is a conditional charge for equipment usage that will only be payable if the production receives sufficient cash to trigger its payment. Here are 3 examples:

Case 1: a member receives a grant of \$2,500 for their film and receives a \$300 license fee from a broadcaster after it is completed. The member would owe nothing to the NB Film Co-op from their deferral as their total revenues for their film falls below the \$5,000 threshold.

Case 2: a member has no funding allotted to their project when they apply to the NB Film Co-op for a deferral of \$1,200 of equipment use, they receive the deferral and later get a grant of \$8,000 from the government. In this case they would enter the 2nd category above and owe the lesser of 5% of their cash budget or the value of the deferred equipment. So in this example, they would owe the NB Film Co-op \$400 (5% of \$8,000) and the remaining balance of the deferral would be reduced from \$1,200 to \$800.

Case 3: A member receives a substantial grant (\$50,000 Canada Council Grant for example). They would fit into category 4 and would pay commercial rates.

(A NB Film Co-op staff person can meet with the member to assist in calculating the deferral available before an application is submitted to the Production Committee).

Independent and Commercial rates – The NB Film Co-op’s equipment rate sheet provides the independent rates for its inventory of gear available. The commercial rate is calculated as triple the independent rate.

If equipment rental fees apply, the member can negotiate a payment schedule on a case-by-case basis with the staff, subject to approval by the Board of Directors.

Exception on Deferrals: The NB Film Co-op defers its equipment fees to assist filmmakers working on a “low budget”. If a filmmaker is in a position of paying some crew members but not all of their crew then, NB Film Co-op members should be equally represented. (The NB Film Co-op does not support productions that pay outside crew members while not paying the NB Film Co-op members). If a filmmaker pays some of their crew and/or pays commercial rental fees for equipment from other companies, the NB Film Co-op will not offer a deferral to a project.

Cash Grants: Any project that falls within the 1st cash budget section (detailed above) is eligible to apply for a cash contribution from the NB Film Co-op, pending approval of both the Production Committee and the Board of Directors. The cash grant available is set by the Board of Directors.

Juried grants/programs that have a cash component built into the award are not eligible for additional cash from the NB Film Co-op, as the NB Film Co-op's cash contribution is already built into the award. Please see the document Juried Grant Programs for more details regarding eligibility.

Equipment access sharing guidelines

The NB Film Co-op provides equipment access to more and more productions each year. It is now necessary to rationalize equipment access to allow more than one shoot to take place at any given time. Thus, the NB Film Co-op and its staff will ensure that they are able to service a second, or multiple shoots, that are occurring at the same time.

Members submitting extensive equipment lists to the NB Film Co-op should be prepared to look beyond the NB Film Co-op's equipment pool in filling their needs. The NB Film Co-op can provide the names of other equipment sources locally and in the region. The co-operative spirit necessitates that the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few or the one.

Equipment Bookings – Members must show consideration for others when booking dates for their shoots during the year. Frequent and last minute cancellations of scheduled shoots plays havoc with the NB Film Co-op's booking schedule and frequent abuses of this privilege will be addressed by the production committee and Board of Directors.

VAMP Program

The NB Film Co-op supports the Visiting Artist Member Program of the Independent Media Arts Alliance. Members of other Co-ops will be given independent rates on equipment for their productions if their organization supports the same policy. For more information on what equipment and facilities the NB Film Co-op can offer, and on policies for its use, contact the NB Film Co-op staff.

I have read, understand and agree with the stipulations and requirements laid out in this production policy.

Member Signs Name Here