



APTN PROGRAMMING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PREDEVELOPMENT & DEVELOPMENT

April 15, 2024

Development Envelope Program Funding, Predevelopment Funding and Targeted
Development Funding – 2024

Deadline for submissions: August 15, 2024 by 5:00 pm PT/CT/ET

APTN is sharing our Peoples' journey, celebrating our cultures, inspiring our children and honouring the wisdom of our Elders.

Introduction

This document constitutes a “Request for Proposals” (RFP) by APTN for development. This RFP is limited to:

- Project proposals that will be submitted through the 2024-2025 Development Envelope Program, or Targeted Development Funding.
- Project proposals for **Predevelopment & Development** through the Canada Media Fund (CMF).

Please refer to the new CMF 2024-2025 fiscal guidelines for more information on the Development Envelope Program, and Targeted Development Funding.

Submission specifics

Please see schedules A, B & C for programming general terms & conditions, eligibility and content priorities. Failure to comply with the conditions set out in these schedules will result in automatic rejection of your proposal.

Development and Predevelopment

Language	English/French with dubbed Indigenous-language version
Target Audience	General Audience
Genre	Children's and Youth, Food, Nature, Spiritual/Supernatural and more
Type	Unscripted, Documentary Series
Format	9 to 13 episodes x 22 minutes is the most successful format for us; 26 episodes x 11 minutes for Children's and Youth. We can also accept 9 to 13 episodes x 44 minutes (doc series), but this format tends to be more difficult to adequately finance for production.
Development Budget	Approx. \$60,000, with a 25/75 APTN/CMF split
Gender Parity	APTN aims for at least 40% of above-the-line key creative roles to be held by women.



Pre-Development

Predevelopment (to develop basic materials outlining a project, which can include episode/series outline(s), development budgets, animation style for Children's and Youth, Pilot Script etc.) suitable for a general audience that features Indigenous culture in an Indigenous language.

- Although APTN supports pre-development with a letter, funding for Pre-Development projects does not come from APTN; it is financed solely through the CMF

Development

Phase 1 Development (to create the polished bible, pitch deck, episode outlines, draft script, production budget and finance structure, production schedule, key creatives list, non-broadcast demo). Applications must include the following creative materials:

- Overview of the show's concept, themes, tone, style, and audience. Pitches with images to convey the visual approach and overall feel of the show are encouraged.

Request for proposals open: **April 15, 2024**
Deadline for applications: **August 15, 2024**
Decisions to producers: **September 2024**

What APTN is looking for:

APTN is looking for bold and unique series ideas. Got an exciting story to tell and a fresh way to tell it? Then we want it. We love complicated and compelling characters (just like you) and we want to watch them stumble and thrive. The environment and setting can be anywhere provided the storyline and production follow Canadian content regulations. If the characters and themes are strong, we want to hear about them!

Audiences love to be introduced to new worlds, and to see familiar worlds presented with a new point of view. The more dangerous and challenging the situations the better, both physically and mentally. There are so many unique, inspiring and compelling Indigenous Peoples across the country, and we want to support you in telling their stories.

We are looking for those special and moving projects with universal themes. Think big characters, personalities and seasonal story arcs, while remembering humour, drama, conflict, and joy. We are very excited to see what you've got.



APTN DEVELOPMENT - APPLICATION FORM

Submission Date: _____

Program Title: _____

Applicant Production Company Name: _____

Province or Territory of Production: _____

Genre:

- Children & Youth
- Documentary

Target Audience:

- Preschool (0-5 years)
- Primary (18-34 years)
- Secondary (35+ years)

Broadcast

Length Per Ep.:

- 11 minutes (Children's series only. Must be even number of episodes.)
- 22 minutes
- 44 minutes

Form:

- Mini-Series, # of Episodes: _____
- Series, # of Episodes: _____

Proposed Development Deliverables (check those applicable to this stage of development/the genre of development project):

- Series Bible
- Research Report
- Production Schedule
- Production Budget and Finance Structure – please include Closed Captioning, Described Video, Digital Media (line 85), Promotion, Versioning and APTN Executive Set Visit in Production Budget
- 5-Minute Demo
- Detailed Episode Outlines
- Draft Scripts Format:
 - Pilot
 - Mini-Series, # of Episodes:
 - Series, # of Episodes:

Short Synopsis:



Original Language (select one):

Indigenous

Please specify: _____

Dialect (if applicable)

Please specify: _____

English

French

Dubbed Version(s) (select one or two – if applicable):

Indigenous

Please specify: _____

Dialect (if applicable)

Please specify: _____

English

French

Applicant Information:

Legal Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City, Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Website: _____

Indigenous Partner/Owner: _____

Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Non-Indigenous Partner/Owner (if applicable): _____

Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____



Indigenous Declaration:

APTN requires applicants to specify the Indigenous group to which they belong. *

Please indicate which percentage of the Applicant Production Company is Indigenous-owned:

Name of Shareholder	Percentage of ownership	Inuit	First Nations	Métis	Non-Indigenous
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Total					

* Where the applicant is an individual, an Indigenous individual is defined to include a First Nations, Métis or Inuit individual who resides in Canada. Where the applicant is a production company, an Indigenous production company is defined as a sole proprietorship, a limited company, a co-operative, a partnership or a not-for-profit organization in which Indigenous persons have at least 51% ownership and effective control; or a joint venture consisting of two or more Indigenous businesses or an Indigenous business and a non-Indigenous business, provided that the Indigenous business(es) has at least 51% Indigenous ownership and effective control of the joint venture. APTN requires statistics in these areas for reporting requirements to the Board of Directors. Consistent with our founding objectives, APTN gives preferential treatment to Indigenous individuals and production companies in the selection of production proposals.

List key creative and Indigenous community/affiliation:

Title	Name(s)	Gender F/M/X	Inuit	First Nations	Métis	Non-Indigenous
Executive Producer			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Producer			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Title	Name(s)	Gender F/M/X	Inuit	First Nations	Métis	Non-Indigenous
Director			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Writer			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Host/Actor			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Director of Photography			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Editor			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Composer			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are 40% of the key creative roles held by women? Yes/No



Please tell us how you identify as Indigenous. For example, explain which nation or community you come from, and who your family is. What is your lived experience and relationship to your Indigenous nation(s), community(ies) and/or culture(s)? How does this context inform your work as an Indigenous storyteller or company? Please fill in your response below or attach a document to your submission titled **“Indigenous Declaration.”**

What aspects of APTN’s Programming Mandates are reflected in the proposal?

- Indigenous Context/Community
- Indigenous Director
- Indigenous Producer
- Indigenous Talent
- Other (e.g. below the line, mentorship, etc.)

Finance Structure

Please indicate if financing is committed or pending:

Financing source	Dollar amount expected	Percentage of total budget	Confirmed or pending?
APTN licence			
CMF Development Program Envelope or Targeted Development Fund			
Other Broadcaster Licence Please Specify:			
Other Sources Please Specify:			
Other Sources Please Specify:			
Total budget amount			



Declaration of Related-Party Transactions

During the production titled _____, will the production company _____ perform any transactions (including fees, salary, rental of goods or services, administration fees or miscellaneous expenses) with the following companies and/or individuals?

Type of Related Parties	YES	NO
Parent company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subsidiary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Companies under common control	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shareholders of parent company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shareholders of subsidiary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Members of immediate family (spouse and children)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management and/or employees of parent company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management and/or employees of subsidiary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you answered yes to one of the questions above, then please complete the table hereunder:

Name of the Related Company of Individual	Type of Relation	Budget Code	Description	Amount
Total				

Definitions

Related parties exist when one party has the ability to exercise, directly or indirectly, control, joint control or significant influence over the other. Two or more parties are related when they are subject to common control, joint or common significant influence. Related parties also include management and immediate family members.

A related party transaction is a transfer of economic resources or obligations between related parties, or the provision of services by one party to a related party, regardless of whether any consideration is exchanged. The parties to the transaction are related prior to the transaction. When the relationship arises as a result of the transaction, the transaction is not one between related parties.

Control of an enterprise is the continuing power to determine its strategic operating, investing and financing policies without the cooperation of others.

Significant influence over an enterprise is the ability to affect the strategic operating, investing and financing policies of the enterprise.

Checklist of Attached Materials for Development (contact Executive for Predevelopment)

When submitting ensure that components are organized and numbered in the following order:

- 1. Signed **APPLICATION FORM**.
- 2. Signed [Proposal Submission Agreement for Producers Form](#).
- 3. Completed **Declaration as to Indigenous Descent Form**.
[Individual](#)
[Company](#)
- 4. Program format, short and long synopsis, summary, identify the genre, running time, number of episodes, original language of shooting
- 5. Identify your target audience and outline the program's relevance and appeal to APTN's audience.
- 6. Treatment (1-5 pages), including, if applicable, episode synopsis, list of shooting locations, list of potential guests, and description of the host/narrator.
- 7. Creative materials (such as storyboards, sketches, photos, DEMO/SIZZLE reel available online via Vimeo, Frame.io or YouTube in support of project, links of Director and/or Producer's previous works).
- 8. Proposed development schedule.
- 9. Development finance plan If applicable, provide confirmation of other financing commitments. Include the amount of your financial request to APTN.
- 10. Dated and signed complete budget.
- 11. Corporate information (including past production experience/broadcasting credits). APTN will not consider licensing proposals submitted by individuals or companies that do not have relevant production experience.
- 12. Incorporation documents for all Producer(s), Production Companies and Parent Company(ies), wholly-owned subsidiaries where relevant or other involved corporate entities that have a substantial involvement in the production, as applicable.
- 13. Shareholder register and ownership share.
- 14. List and resumes of key creative personnel/principal crew members
- 15. Complete Chain of Title identifying the following:
 - Writer's agreements, option/purchase agreements, transfer of rights agreements and all other agreements demonstrating that the producer(s) holds the rights to the following:
 - The creative material and concept.
 - The rights to produce, distribute and exploit the project.



I certify that **THIS APPLICATION FORM** and deliverables listed in the checklist are complete and all the information provided is truthful and accurate and that no material fact has been omitted. By signing below, I also certify that I have read and will abide by [ON-SCREEN PROTOCOLS & PATHWAYS](#)

Signature:

Name:

Date:

Where to Submit Proposals

Proposals must be submitted in PDF format with each component organized and numbered individually via the producer's Dropbox (or other online server APTN can access for secure download) by **August 15, 2024**. Once submitted, please contact the Executive to confirm receipt of the submission.

APTN

Danelle Granger
Executive in charge of Development and Scripted Production
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Winnipeg, MB R3B 2C3
(431) 792-7620
dgranger@aptn.ca



SCHEDULE A

General Terms & Conditions

Applications are not accepted via courier, mail, e-mail or fax.

Failure to provide all documentation will result in automatic rejection of the proposal. Please note that APTN will not return materials so please retain a copy for your files. APTN is not responsible for damaged materials. Submissions received after the deadline will not be accepted or considered.

A committee of APTN Programming Department members will meet to review complete proposals (outside readers may be engaged to review treatments/scripts for complete applications). This process takes anywhere from 6 to 8 weeks. The committee will recommend the selection of a limited number of programs for licencing.

APTN is not obliged to select all proposals that are considered and reserves the right to extend the deadline for proposals or add, delete, and/or change the terms of this RFP and issue corrections and amendments to this document. APTN has made every effort to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the information contained in this document. APTN also reserves the right to contact producers to discuss their proposal and to conduct negotiations with a producer.

EXCEPT as provided in the Proposal Submission Agreement, producers who submit proposals will not acquire any legal or equitable rights or privileges whatsoever until a formal licence agreement is signed with APTN.

APTN requests applicants to voluntarily self-identify. APTN requires statistics in these areas for reporting requirements to the Board of Directors and the CRTC. An Indigenous person is defined to include a First Nations, Inuit or Métis person who resides in Canada.

APTN will contact producers whose programs have been selected and, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, will extend an invitation to enter into a formal agreement with APTN.

Please note:

- There are no automatic broadcast licences for programs that are currently in development with APTN. Developed proposals are considered year-round.
- APTN requires E&O insurance for all projects. This must be included in the budget (Five (5) years for all genres).
- Program is to otherwise comply with [APTN Technical Standards](#)



SCHEDULE B

APTN is seeking content that celebrates, challenges, uplifts, educates, and entertains our communities. We want to showcase the most important stories, the most hilarious personalities, the most visionary storytellers in our communities.

We are always open to new types of content, but the below content categories are what we are most commonly looking for. Our largest commissioning category is documentary series, but we are also looking at other formats via development, second window applications, and selected RFPs. By watching APTN and speaking with the Content Executives producers can get a sense of subjects from the below list that are not being fully explored by our current slate of shows in production. Pitches that can fit in one or more of the following categories may be more competitive, as they can be programmed with a wider variety of our shows.

APTN programming provides a service to our audiences. In order to stand out, new pitches should strongly serve audiences in at least two of the following ways:

- Educate/Inform
- Entertain
- Revitalize/Celebrate Culture
- Inspire Action

Documentary Series

In addition to being exciting shows that we believe will attract our audiences, these shows should:

- Have a clear and unique POV, expressed through shooting style, approach to content, tone, casting, etc.
- Be action-driven. We need to see characters in unique scenarios, doing things that create story.
- Hosts can be present, but they need to be part of the action of the show. Traditional stand-ups should rarely be part of the format.
- Must be CMF-able (IP or PE)
- Must have strong potential for ongoing seasons.

Documentary Series topics & themes include (but not limited to):

- Comedic doc series (or comedic takes on subject matter)
- Food
- Indigenous workplaces
- Indigenous people at play (hobbies, sports, unique passions)
- Supernatural & Spiritual
- Indigenous Histories
- Sports & traditional activities
- Health / Healthy living
- Living/Being on the Land
- Reclamation and community
- Sex & relationships
- Arts
- Politics/activism



Indigenous Language Education

- Indigenous language education pitches arrive primarily via RFP.

Drama

- Unless part of an RFP, drama pitches arrive via development or a second window application.

Scripted Comedy

- Unless part of an RFP, comedy pitches arrive via development or a second window application.

Kids

- Unless part of an RFP, kids shows arrive via development or a second window application.

Talk/Current events

- Unless part of an RFP, talk/current events pitches arrive via development or a second window application.

SCHEDULE C

Eligibility and Evaluation of Proposals

Eligibility Guidelines

In order for proposals to be eligible for consideration the following conditions must be met:

- 1) Program selection must be of interest to a national Indigenous audience.
- 2) The producer must:
 - a) be an Indigenous Person, if an individual, which is defined to include a First Nations, Métis or Inuit individual who resides in Canada;
 - b) be an Indigenous Production Company, which is defined to include:
 - A sole proprietorship, a limited company, a co-operative, a partnership or a not-for-profit organization in which Indigenous Persons have at least **fifty-one (51%) percent ownership and control; or**
 - c) have submitted a proposal that otherwise qualifies for funding or licensing under the APTN Licensing and Acquisitions Policy.
- 3) The production company must be in compliance, and not in default, with any previous contract(s) with APTN. In the event of a coproduction or new company established between two or more existing companies, all companies must be in compliance with any previous contract(s) with APTN. APTN reserves the right not to review proposals from any company involved in a project that does not meet this requirement.
- 4) APTN requires programs in Indigenous languages to be subtitled in either French or English.



- 5) APTN requires closed captioning for the hearing impaired on all English and French programs, as well as described video for programming drawn from the following CRTC program categories: 2(b) long form doc; 7 drama and comedy; 9 variety; 11(a) general entertainment & human interest; 11(b) reality TV, and/or may be programming targeting children.
- 6) All projects accessing CMF funding will require an ISAN number.
- 7) APTN will not licence proposals submitted by individuals or companies that do not have relevant production experience.
- 8) For any licensed program APTN will require a [CRTC Certificate of Canadian Program Certification](#) (no CAVCO number) for all programs over 5 minutes in duration. The program must satisfy all Canadian content requirements of the CRTC. APTN will require a Canadian content certificate from the CRTC for the original language version of the program, as well as separate CRTC Canadian content certificate(s) for the Indigenous language version and/or any other official language version (which certificate should allow for additional 25% time credit from the CRTC for programs dubbed in Canada).

Evaluation Criteria

Among various criteria, proposals are rated upon (but not limited to) the following conditions:

- APTN requires that ALL PROGRAMS be delivered in the form of digital files.
- Canadian source (please note that for any licensed program APTN will require a [CRTC Certificate of Canadian Program Certification](#) (no CAVCO) for all programs over 5 minutes in duration)
- Creative content including originality, production value, track record of creative team
- Level of Indigenous participation:
 - Exec Producer, Producer, Showrunner, Director, Principal Writer, Crew, Talent
- Indigenous mentorship/training commitments
- Number and value of licenses previously granted
- Secured funding
- Shelf life
- APTN window
- Production schedule (target availability for broadcast)
- Primary and Secondary Audience
 - National
 - Regional
- Provide DM component if applicable

Proposals are evaluated on many criteria, including the vision of APTN; our desire to attract and engage our audience; the terms of our license with the CRTC; the finite financial resources of the network; the quality of the proposal; and the credentials of the production team.

APTN receives more than 250 project proposals each year and is only able to proceed with a small number of these. A rejection of your proposal is not always a creative judgment on your work but merely a reflection of how much we can commit to at any given time.