



WGC Diversity Script of the Month

OVERVIEW AND GOALS

The WGC Diversity Script of the Month is a new initiative that aims to help WGC members who are emerging screenwriters with diverse backgrounds.

Eligible applicants are encouraged to submit a script to the WGC Diversity Script of the Month. Members of the WGC diversity committee will read the scripts and select a shortlist. Each month, one of the selected scripts will be sent to a group of industry leaders. There is no commitment from industry leaders to give notes or follow-up. **The program is about giving diverse writers a chance to have their scripts read by someone with real decision-making power.**

The WGC defines diverse writers as belonging to any of the following groups: Indigenous peoples, people of colour, LGBTQ+, and people with disabilities.

Eligible applicants will be judged solely on the strength of their script. Once submitted, the committee won't consider any other factors and scripts will be read blindly by judges.

The goals of the program are:

1. To facilitate the discovery of IP created by emerging diverse writers.
2. To connect experienced Canadian media professionals with rising screenwriting talent.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible applicants must:

- **Be a WGC member in good standing.**
- Not be enrolled in any full-time university program.
- Own all underlying rights to their original script.
- Be a permanent resident, whether a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant.
- Have no more than five produced or in production credits as a contracted writer (excluding digital credits for webisodes and credits for kids' entertainment programming).
- Identify as diverse, according to the Guild's definition in the "APPLICATION FORM". Members must be **identified as such with the WGC**. To self-identify as diverse with the Guild, please email Natalia Escobar Bohorquez at n.escobarb@wgc.ca prior to submitting your application.

Please refer to the "FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS" section for additional information. If you have additional questions regarding the eligibility criteria for this program contact Natalia Escobar Bohorquez, the WGC's director of strategy and research. Email Natalia at n.escobarb@wgc.ca.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

FILLABLE FORMS:

1. Application Form, Submission Release and Declaration of Ownership. See the explanation below in the “TO APPLY” section.

SUPPORT MATERIAL:

2. Script: Emerging screenwriters must apply to the program with an original, English-language script based on an original concept. Specs of existing shows or bibles will not be considered.

Drama, comedy, and children’s and youth programming scripts are eligible. Projects may be feature films, 1/2-hour series, 1-hour series, mini-series, or a series of movies of the week. They may be live-action or animation.

While the program welcomes and encourages stories that include diverse perspectives, themes, and characters, this is not a requirement.

The following are **ineligible**:

- Talk shows, game shows, reality-based series, documentary series, news, stand-up and sketch comedies.

Please refer to the “FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS” section for additional information.

TO APPLY

1. Deadline to apply – **March 21, 2018 at 5 p.m. EST.**
2. Download the WGC Diversity Script of the Month guidelines with Adobe Reader and fill out the three forms (Application Form, Submission Release, and Declaration of Ownership).
3. Print a copy of your three completed forms and provide a handwritten signature in the spaces provided. Scan and save all three as *one* PDF: **FormsYourlastnameDSOTM.pdf** (No digital signatures, please. We can only accept handwritten.)
4. Save your script as **ScriptYourlastnameDSOTM.pdf**.
5. **EMAIL the two pdfs – Forms and Script to: diversity@wgc.ca** with the subject line: **Application DSOTM**

APPLICATION FORM

1. Personal Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Sex: F M

Place of Birth: _____

Do you have an agent?

No Yes

Agent's name (if applicable): _____

Agent's email address (if applicable): _____

2. Title, Genre and Logline

Please be aware that section 2. of the APPLICATION FORM will be shared with industry leaders if your script is selected.

Title: _____

Genre and format: _____

Logline for Original Script (450 characters maximum)

Logline of Original Concept (if different from script) (450 characters maximum)

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3. Are you currently working in the television industry and, if so, in what capacity:

No Yes, Writer Producer Director Other: _____

4. Citizenship

Applicants must be either a Canadian citizen or landed immigrant. Proof of citizenship or landed immigrant status may be requested.

Canadian Citizen Landed Immigrant

5. Canadian Resident: Yes No

Applicants must be living permanently in Canada. Proof may be requested.

6. Diversity Identification

Applicants must identify their diversity to ensure that the program's mandate is met. Federal privacy legislation protects the personal information you voluntarily provide on this application form.

For the purposes of this program, the WGC defines diversity as writers who belong to any of the following groups: Indigenous peoples, people of colour, LGBTQ+, and people with disabilities. Further information may be requested by the WGC.

Diversity Identification _____

Applicant Signature (Print form and sign manually)

Date

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SUBMISSION RELEASE

Title of Script: _____

Length and Genre of Script (e.g. 1/2-hr Sitcom): _____

I understand that the Writers Guild of Canada ("WGC") will be evaluating the Script as a basis for the possible selection of it for the WGC Diversity Script of the Month. I am signing this Submission Release (the "Release") in the express understanding that the WGC is relying on this Release and my agreement herein. I acknowledge that the WGC will not review the Script without my execution of this Release.

I acknowledge that no fiduciary, agency, employment or confidential relationship now exists between the WGC and me, and I further acknowledge that no such relationship is established by execution of this Release and submission of the Script.

I warrant and represent that I am the sole author of the Script. I further warrant and represent that to the best of my knowledge the Script and all elements thereof are my original creations and do not violate any copyright, proprietary rights, rights of confidentiality or other rights of any person or entity and that no third party has any rights, title or interest therein or thereto. I agree to indemnify the WGC from and against any and all claims, expenses, losses or liabilities that may be asserted against the WGC or incurred by the WGC in connection with the Script arising from any breach or alleged breach of these warranties.

I understand that the WGC will not intentionally use the Script or any part thereof for any purpose other than provided herein.

I have retained at least one copy of the Script, and I hereby release the WGC of all liability for loss or destruction of, or damage to, said Script.

This Release shall inure to the benefit of, and be binding upon, each of us and our respective heirs, successors, representatives, assigns, and licensees. Should any provision or part of any provision of this Release be void or unenforceable, such provision or part thereof shall be deemed omitted, and replaced by a legal provision which most closely reflects the parties' intent as expressed herein. As so modified this Release shall remain in full force and effect. This Release shall be construed according to the laws of the province of Ontario without reference to conflicts of law provisions. This Release may not be changed, modified, terminated or discharged except by a document signed by both parties.

The WGC shall be under no obligation to retain the Script or to return the Script or any copies thereof.

I hereby state that I have read and understand this Release, that no representations of any kind have been made to me other than as contained in this Release, that there are no prior or contemporaneous agreements, either oral or written, in effect between us pertaining to the Script, and that this Release states our entire understanding and agreement.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Signature: _____ Name: _____

(Print form and sign manually)

DECLARATION OF OWNERSHIP

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that I am the sole author of the original script titled

“ _____ ”
 (“the Work”) and own all rights including copyright the Work.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2018.

Signature: _____ (Print form and sign manually)

Name: _____

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to be a member of the WGC to apply to the program?

Yes. You have to be a WGC member in good standing.

How will my script be evaluated?

Scripts will be reviewed by the members of the WGC diversity committee.

How will I know if my script has been selected?

If your script is selected, you will be notified by phone. If you are not selected, you will be notified by email.

When will I know if my script has been selected?

We'll try to let you know where you stand as soon as we can but we don't know how many scripts we will get or how many will be selected by the committee. As long as you haven't heard anything from us you should assume that your script is still up for consideration.

When can I apply again if I don't have my script ready before March 21st?

There will be a second call for applications in 2018.

If my script is selected, who will read it?

Selected scripts will be sent to industry leaders. This list includes producers, showrunners and others, and may change from month to month. They are not required to follow-up or provide notes but if someone shows interest in your project you will be notified by the WGC and we will connect you after you give us your consent to do so.

Will I know which industry leaders have read my script?

Only in cases in which they request your contact information and you give us your consent to do so.

May I send in additional support material beyond what is required?

No. The jury will only review the script material.

How is diversity determined?

The WGC defines diversity as writers who belong to any of the following groups: Indigenous peoples, people of colour, LGBTQ+, and people with disabilities.

Do I have to identify my diversity?

The program was specifically developed to bring more diverse screenwriters into the industry. If you do not identify, we will have no way of knowing if you are eligible for the program.

Will I need to prove my diversity?

The WGC may ask for additional information in cases in which further clarification is needed. Additional information will only be asked to ensure the applicant is eligible for the program.

Will my diversity affect the evaluation of my application?

Eligible applicants will only be evaluated on the strength of the script submitted with their application.

May I apply if I am a non-diverse screenwriter but have a project that features diversity?

No. The program is aimed specifically at diverse screenwriters.

Can I submit a script if I have an agent?

Yes.

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Can I submit a script for which I have received public or private funding?

Yes.

May I apply if a producer has already optioned my script?

No. Projects that have already been optioned are not eligible. You may, however, apply with a different project. If your script gets optioned or you sell it after submitting it to the WGC Diversity Script of the Month, you are required to inform the WGC and withdraw it from the program.

What are the acceptable program genres?

You may submit any genre of drama, comedy or children's and youth projects – live action or animated. Formats include feature films, hour-long dramatic series, half-hour series, movies-of-the-week and mini-series. Ineligible formats include talk shows, game shows, reality-based series, including home improvement and food shows, documentaries, documentary series, news shows, stand-up and sketch comedies.

Why can't I submit a spec script for an existing television series?

Spec scripts will show us that you can write within an existing framework, but they won't reveal your abilities to create original projects.

May I apply with more than one project?

No. We will accept only one project per applicant at a time. If your script is not selected, you will be able to re-apply with a different script based on a different original concept on another round.

Can I resubmit my script for another round?

No. You may apply with a different script on another round.

Can I apply with a co-screenwriter?

You and your co-screenwriter may apply to the program. At this time, it is required for both you and your co-screenwriter to meet the eligibility criteria.