

Fastest Growing Industries: Film & Television Industry

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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1. Overview of the Film & Television (TV) Industry

Introduction

BC is Canada's largest centre for film and television production. The industry is capable of serving all sizes and budgets of local and international productions.

Value of Film & TV Industry in British Columbia

During 2016/2017 production companies spent almost \$3 billion on a total of 338 domestic and international productions in BC.

Total Volume of Film & TV Production in British Columbia (\$ millions)

(\$ millions)	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
British Columbia	1,729	1,578	1,605	1,618	2,239	2,112	2,991
Total	5,560	5,963	5,830	5,962	7,060	6,741	8,377

Source: Profile 2017: Economic Report on the Screen Based Media Production Industry in Canada

BC's thriving creative industries are well established, with world-class film, television, visual effects, animation and post-production companies. A rich pool of creative talent is able to support major feature-length projects - both on-screen and online. For more details see:

- ***Film, Television and Digital Media Sector Incentives:***
<http://www.britishcolumbia.ca/invest/industry-sectors/technology/film-television-and-digital-media/>

Scope of BC's Film & TV industry

BC's creative industries include everything from writing, casting, production, post-production, and distribution of films to animation and visual effects. Companies in BC produce and distribute screen-based content for audiences around the world including feature films, dramatic and lifestyle series for television, documentaries, short films and commercials.

BC's Creative and Production Crews

BC's film industry has an experienced crew base of 24,000 who are directly involved in film & television production. Combining the number of jobs that are directly generated by film & TV *plus spinoff jobs*, almost 61,000 direct and indirect jobs are generated by Film & TV production in BC. More than 80% of these jobs are located in Metro Vancouver.

BC offers:

- creative and technical talent who can provide the full range of services needed for both domestic and international productions.
- a talent pool that includes acting talent, set construction, filming, post-production, and video effects
- outstanding facilities, training, and research services are provided by BC's educational institutions engaged in digital media and motion picture production
- 3,000 graduates each year entering the media industry from BC's post-secondary programs.

Total Number of Film & TV Industry Direct & Spinoff Full-Time Jobs in BC

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
British Columbia	39,880	35,740	35,140	34,590	46,660	43,620	60,870
Ontario	42,560	51,310	47,720	46,790	52,020	50,630	54,080
Quebec	38,050	36,730	36,900	34,210	40,230	36,250	44,560
Total	129,500	134,100	128,000	127,600	148,300	140,100	171,700

Source: Profile 2017: Economic Report on the Screen Based Media Production Industry in Canada

BC's large established infrastructure for film & TV production:

- more than 60 studios
- can support the largest movie productions, from set construction and casting through to post-production and visual effects
- can handle up to 50 productions simultaneously
- more than 2.5 million square feet of studio space including: purpose-built, warehouse conversion, FX, and broadcast stages with building facades, and in-house effects capabilities
- on average Vancouver is home to approximately 65+ movies and 55+ TV series annually, as well as hundreds of other filming days for commercials, TV pilots and other features
- BC provides close proximity to and is in the same time zone as Los Angeles

Sources:

- **Creative BC: Impact Report 2016/2017**
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TrILtU0Oq9wCICSOkC4pBNbcxw76CfVW/view>
- **Profile 2017: Economic Report on the Screen Based Media Production Industry in Canada** [Canadian Media Producers Association – CMPA]
https://www.mpa-canada.org/research_docs/profile-2017-economic-report-on-the-screen-based-media-production-industry-in-canada/
- **Film & Television Production [Vancouver Economic Commission]**
<http://www.vancouvereconomic.com/film-television/>
- **Film, Television & Digital Media Sector Snapshot [Trade & Invest BC]**
<https://www.britishcolumbia.ca/invest/industry-sectors/technology/film-television-and-digital-media/>
- **Film & Visual Effects. Government of BC**
<http://www.britishcolumbia.ca/TradeBCPortal/media/Marketing/bc-film-tv-animation-mit.pdf>

2. Occupations in the Film & Television Industry

From 2018-2028 new immigrants to BC are projected to fill 27 per cent of all job openings in the province.

BC Labour Market Outlook 2018 Edition

Film & Television Industry: Occupations in Demand across all BC regions:

<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Cumulative Number of Jobs* 2018-2028</i>
Managers – publishing, motion pictures, broadcasting and performing arts, NOC 0512	820
Producers, directors, choreographers and related Occupations, NOC 5131	3,000
Film and video camera operators, NOC 5222	510
Audio and video recording technicians, NOC 5225	1,490
Other technical and co-ordinating occupations in motion pictures, broadcasting and the performing arts, NOC 5226	2,200
Support occupations in motion pictures, broadcasting, photography and the performing arts, NOC 5227	1,920

* combination of replacement jobs and newly created jobs

Source:

British Columbia Labour Market Outlook 2018 Edition

<https://www.workbc.ca/Labour-Market-Industry/Labour-Market-Outlook.aspx>

Some of the careers available in the film & television industry:

Film, television and video production are the world's fastest growing cultural industry. Employment opportunities in this sector are available in:

- Motion pictures
- Television
- Specialty Pay Television channels
- Animation
- Indie podcasting

Trends and Changes in Film & Television Industry Careers:

Computerization is changing the way many people in film and broadcasting careers do their work.

Some actors now wear body mics that are hooked to computerized sound systems. Specialized software is being used for all aspects of production from scriptwriting, to costume design, to musical scoring. Animation and special effects programs are central to many of today's film and television programming. Radio, film and television editing is now completely digitized so that technicians can cut, mix and add elements by computer.

Sources:

Careers in Culture [Cultural Human Resources Council]

- Film & Broadcasting Careers
<http://www.culturalhrc.ca/careersinculture/FandB/e/01-03.php>
- New Opportunities
<http://www.culturalhrc.ca/careersinculture/FandB/e/05-01.php>



Source:
<http://www.culturalhrc.ca/careersinculture/FandB/e/01-03.php>

3. Getting Started and Finding Jobs in the Film & Television Industry

How do you get started in the Film & Television Industry?

You will need to complete the ***Motion Picture Industry Orientation Course (MPIO)***. This course is required for membership or permittee status in most BC unions representing film and television workers.

Developed in partnership with film industry unions and guilds, *MPIO* provides you with the information needed to work on a film set. Topics include growth and trends in the BC motion picture industry, the collaborative nature of the industry, demands and challenges of working in film, on-set protocols and language, film job classifications and descriptions, reading and understanding a call sheet, importance of interpersonal skills, on-set safety considerations and best practices.

- ***MPIO*** is offered through Capilano University:
<https://csee.capilanou.ca/continuing-studies/motion-picture-industry-orientation/>

You ***may*** be asked to also complete:

- ***ActSafe*** workshop, four hour course covering motion picture and television safety awareness.
<http://www.actSAFE.ca/courses/motion-picture-safety-awareness/>
- ***WHMIS*** (Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System)
<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/hazards-exposures/whmis/education-training>

Which Unions Represent Workers in the Film & Television Industry?

After completing coursework, contact the Union representing your type of work and ask about membership.

- **ACFC West, Local 2020 CEP** - The Association of Canadian Film Craftspeople <https://www.acfcwest.com/> represents accounting, art, catering, construction, continuity, craft services, editing, electric, greens, grip, hair, make-up, production office props, prop building, publicity, scenic art, security, set decoration, sound, special effects, transportation, wardrobe, wranglers (animal)
- **B.C. Council of Film Unions**, representing IATSE Local 891, IATSE Local 669 and Teamsters Local Union 155
<http://www.bccfu.com/>
- **Directors Guild of Canada**, British Columbia District Council
<https://www.dgc.ca/en/british-columbia/> represents Director, 2nd Unit Director, Production & Unit Manager, Additional Assistant Director Background Coordinator, Location Manager, Assistant Location Manager, Location Scout, Production Assistant
- **IATSE Local 669** (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees – International Photographers Guild) represents directors of photography, camera operators, camera assistants, unit publicists, unit still photographers
<http://www.ia669.com/>
- **I.A.T.S.E. Local 891** (International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees - Production Technicians) represents accounting, art, construction, costume, editing, first aid / craft service, greens, grips, hair, lighting / electrics, make-up, painting, production office, props, script supervisors, continuity coordinator, set decorating, sound, special effects, visual effects
<https://www.iatse.com/>
- **Teamsters Union Local No. 155**
represents drivers, security, catering, animal handlers & wranglers, mechanics
<https://www.teamsters155.org/web2009/index.php>

- **Union of BC Performers**, branch of ACTRA represents actors, stunt people, singers, dancers, puppeteers, voices
<http://www.ubcp.com/>

See also

- **Joining the Unions**
https://www.creativebc.com/community/education-and-careers/sb_expander_articles/634.php

Getting Experience

Everyone who hires in film and broadcasting want applicants who already have experience, whether volunteer or professional. Most people get their first film or broadcasting job through a contact – an acquaintance who knows about an unadvertised job or where work can be found.

How can you make these very important contacts?

- Make yourself visible. The only way people will know about you is because you're already working, or from your school or volunteer work.
- Be an enthusiastic worker. If you're willing to try anything and enjoy what you're doing, people will remember you.
- Be curious about others. Your network is not just about you. Have a genuine interest in what others do and enjoy learning from them.
- Stay in touch. Relationships need constant work. Give your contacts a call now and then, and ask them how they're doing. Tell them what you're up to.

Source: **Careers in Culture** [Cultural Human Resources Council], Careers in Film & Broadcasting, Hands-on Experience

<http://www.culturalhrc.ca/careersinculture/FandB/e/07-03.php>

Online Job Postings

- **Indeed.ca**

<https://ca.indeed.com/Film-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>

<https://ca.indeed.com/Film-Production-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>

<https://ca.indeed.com/Film-Industry-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>

<https://ca.indeed.com/Television-jobs-in-Vancouver,-BC>

- **Playback.ca**

<http://playbackonline.ca/careers/>

Careers in film production, broadcasting and interactive media across Canada; browse through 'Production' and 'Post-Production' employment opportunities

- **Culture Works**

<http://www.cultureworks.ca/jobs>

Creating a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers in the film & television industry in British Columbia. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Creative BC – Post Production Contacts**

<http://www.creativebc.com/industry-sectors/motion-picture/post-and-digital-visual-effects>

[click on 'post production' at bottom of page]

- **Creative BC – Motion Picture Contacts**

<https://www.creativebc.com/industry-sectors/industry-contacts/motion-picture>

- **Creative BC - In Production**

<http://www.creativebc.com/crbc-services/motion-picture-services/in-production>

weekly updated list of all productions currently shooting in BC (feature films, TV series, TV pilots, reality TV)

- **Directors Guild of Canada – Production Lists**

<https://www.dgc.ca/en/british-columbia/avails-and-production-lists/production-list/>

4. Additional Resources

Still looking for more information? Try looking at the following resources:

- **Creative BC**

<https://www.creativebc.com/>

independent non-profit BC government agency promotes development of creative industries in British Columbia and provides a single point of access for industry programming, production support services, tax credit administration, international marketing and policy development

- **Canadian Media Producers Association, BC Branch**

<https://cmpabc.com/>

- **Careers in Culture: Careers in Film & Broadcasting**

<http://www.culturalhrc.ca/careersinculture/FandB/e/01-01.php>

- **Film, Television & Digital Media: BC**

<http://www.britishcolumbia.ca/invest/industry-sectors/technology/film-television-and-digital-media/>

- **Vancouver Film Commission**

<http://www.vancouvereconomic.com/vancouver-film-commission/>

- **Vancouver Economic Commission: Film & Television Production**

<http://www.vancouvereconomic.com/film-television/>

- **Vancouver Post Alliance**

<https://vancouverpostalliance.com/>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/>.