



PRODUCTION GUIDE

2009 / 2010



Where stories come to life™

Nova Scotia is a
Place Where Stories
Come to Life.



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Listing in this guide is a personal choice and it is the responsibility of the individual to provide information for publication. This guide is not a full representation of the crew and support available in the province. Although every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained herein is correct, Film Nova Scotia cannot guarantee its accuracy nor take responsibility for errors or omissions. No endorsement or quality judgement is implied.

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You'll not only find skilled, experienced crews, you'll find the friendliest people anywhere.



ANN MACKENZIE, CA, CPA
PRESIDENT & CEO FILM NOVA SCOTIA



Nova Scotia is a place where stories come to life.

Located on the east coast of Canada, our province has a diverse landscape of incredible backdrops that can fill in for anywhere or look like no place else on earth.

You'll not only find skilled, experienced crews, you'll find the friendliest people anywhere. And with the most competitive tax credits in the industry, you'll be able to make more movie here.

Internationally renowned actors including Harrison Ford, Tom Selleck, Kate Beckinsale, Kevin Spacey and Ellen Page know firsthand how extraordinary Nova Scotia can be on and off the set.

Disney, Sony, Hallmark, Miramax and others have all shot here – you can too.

Nova Scotians have a rich history of story telling. And Film Nova Scotia is about one thing – helping bring your story to life.

Make Nova Scotia the location for your project to ensure an excellent production, produced on time and on budget. It may be the impressive locations that lure you, or perhaps the cost savings, but add our top-notch crews and services into the mix, and Nova Scotia truly is the best place in the world to make films.

About Film Nova Scotia

Film Nova Scotia is a provincial Crown corporation with a mandate to grow the film industry. Film Nova Scotia provides investment, industry development and export programs to the local film industry and administers the Film Industry Tax Credit for both local and guest production.

Film Nova Scotia also markets the province as a place to film and provides a full range of film commission services. Clients can access an extensive library of photographs, location breakdown services, free location scouting and ongoing community liaison services as required.

Filmed Here

Features (select titles)

Amelia	The Shipping News	Titanic
Outlander	K-19: The Widowmaker	Two If By Sea
Snow Angels	Weight of Water	Dolores Claiborne
A Hole in One	Scotland, PA	The Scarlet Letter
My Little Eye	Simon Birch	La Veuve de Saint-Pierre

MOWs and Series (select titles)

Sea Wolf	A Christmas Wedding	Heart of a Stranger
G-Spot	Blessings	The Christmas Shoes
The Tenth Circle	Footsteps	A Town Without Christmas
The Memory Keeper's Daughter	Martha, Inc.	A Glimpse of Hell
Jesse Stone Series	Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story	
Wedding Wars	Hunger Point	
Sybil		

Canadian Productions (select titles)

Poor Boy's Game	Chef at Home	Margaret's Museum
Just Buried	Sleep Murder	One Heart Broken Into Song
A Stone's Throw	Trudeau II: Maverick in the Making	Love and Death on Long Island
Shake Hands with the Devil	Lunar Jim	New Waterford Girl
This Hour Has 22 Minutes	October 1970	The Event
Trailer Park Boys: The Movie		

Experience Nova Scotia

We invite you to take a close look at Nova Scotia. Our province offers every competitive advantage to help you complete your production on time and on budget.

Full service production centre

Nova Scotia is the fourth largest production centre in Canada and has a proven track record for delivering excellence to filmmakers, both in terms of production value and quality, and all at a very competitive price. Our clients keep coming back because they know that Nova Scotia is the best place in the world to make films – They can complete their project on time and on budget.

Highly competitive tax incentive

Nova Scotia's tax incentive is the highest in Canada and provides a tremendous advantage to producers who choose to do both physical production and digital animation and visual effects work in Nova Scotia. With a regional and frequent filming bonus, Nova Scotia continues to be a cost-effective choice for film and television production.



Chasing Wild Horses

Exceptional customer service

Since 1990, Film Nova Scotia has been the first step to motion picture production in the province. Our role is to guide you to the best locations, people, facilities and resources available. We offer assistance in accessing every competitive advantage to ensure you have an incredible production experience.



Bo on the Go!

Varied locations

Filmmakers who have shot in Nova Scotia keep coming back knowing that Nova Scotia has a multitude of looks for their projects and the support network to make it all happen. Its unique geography gives filmmakers the diversity they need. From urban streets to small coastal towns, the range of settings make Nova Scotia very versatile from a locations perspective.



Experienced cast & crew base

For more than twenty years, Nova Scotia has provided the film industry with a friendly and professional cast and crew base, ready and willing to meet the challenges the industry presents. Whether it's a Russian seaport or a 17th Century New England village, Nova Scotia's skilled workforce has the depth, talent, creativity, and vision to get the job done.

Partnerships with local producers

Nova Scotia production companies continue to foster existing and establish new relationships with national and international co-financing and co-production partners. Entrepreneurial in both spirit and practice, Nova Scotia producers have successfully developed, financed and produced award winning film and television projects that speak to a global audience. Whether it's a \$1 million or \$60 million project, Nova Scotia production companies can confidently prep, shoot and post at significant cost savings to both co-production partners and those seeking production services.

World class studio & equipment infrastructure

Nova Scotia has 32,000 square feet of studio facilities, supported by a full complement of technically advanced production equipment and every conceivable film production service at the ready.

Exceptional quality of life

On location – there is no better place to work or play than Nova Scotia. Known for its international restaurants, world class hotels and laid back lifestyle, Nova Scotia offers beautiful east coast scenery, recreational opportunities, and exciting sights and attractions set in a spectacular natural environment.

Film Nova Scotia Services

As the provincial film commission, Film Nova Scotia provides a range of services and support designed to facilitate the production experience for producers visiting the province.

Locations breakdown/locations library

Complete locations breakdown services for guest film and television projects, including commercials, utilizing our extensive library of locations from across the province. Location image packages are developed by a secure and personalized web page for each production.



Scouting

The services of the Film Nova Scotia Locations Officer are provided to producers and directors who are in province searching for suitable locations.



James Houston: The Most Interesting Group of People You'll Ever Meet

Community liaison and ongoing support

Assistance with ongoing location research, information and support as required. Film Nova Scotia will connect you to local unions, guilds and production personnel, and other contacts throughout the province. In addition, Film Nova Scotia will act as mediator for the industry and the general public.



Nova Scotia Film Industry Tax Credit

This program is a fully refundable corporate income tax credit. It is a labour-based credit that encourages the development, training and hiring of Nova Scotia film personnel in all disciplines. Film Nova Scotia administers this program on behalf of the Nova Scotia Department of Finance. The credit currently ranges from 50% to 65%.

Eligibility

The Tax Credit is available to qualifying productions and co-productions produced and/or shot in Nova Scotia. Production companies applying for the Tax Credit must have a permanent establishment in Nova Scotia (a fixed place of business, a production office, a branch, etc.) and must be incorporated under the laws of Nova Scotia, another province of Canada, or Canada.

Eligible genres include television, videotape, feature film, non-theatrical production and the subject is drama, variety, performing arts, animated or informational series, documentary or music programming, including music videos. There is no limit on the size of the production budget, no corporate or asset cap, and no Canadian content or copyright ownership requirements associated with this Tax Credit. The Tax Credit is not reduced by any other tax credits that the production may receive.

Calculations

The Tax Credit is calculated as the lesser of 50% of eligible Nova Scotia labour or 25% of the total production costs for productions that occur in the Halifax region (Metro Halifax) or the lesser of 60% of eligible Nova Scotia labour or 30% of total production costs for productions that occur in other regions (Eligible Geographic Areas) of the province, for productions commencing principal photography after October 1, 2007.

Eligible Geographic Areas (EGA) of the province are considered to be those locations that are located 30km driving distance or more from Halifax City Hall. For greater clarity, this area is bounded by the Mount Uniacke exit of Highway 101; the Halifax International Airport exit of Highway 102; the Tantallon exit of Highway 103; and the Porters Lake exit of Highway 107. If less than 50% of the days of principal photography are shot outside Metro Halifax, the Regional bonus is prorated based on the number of days principal photography is shot outside the Halifax Region. If 50% or more of the days of principal photography are shot outside Metro Halifax, the Regional bonus is applied to 100% of the Nova Scotia labour.

Film Nova Scotia Programs

Film Nova Scotia administers several loan and investment programs to eligible Nova Scotian companies and their co-production partners in an effort to support film and television production in Nova Scotia. For general information on eligibility, types of funding available, and the application process, please visit our website.

Development Loans

This program provides an interest free loan to local professionals or companies to support the development process of a film or television project. For instance, these stages could include research, writing, market analysis and costing.

Equity Investment – Film and TV

This program is designed to provide assistance in the form of equity investment to qualified Nova Scotia producers and production companies. The goal of the program is to help with the financing of local productions.

Equity Investment – New Media

Film Nova Scotia will invest in interactive productions, such as CD-ROM, DVD, or Internet-delivered formats, which are entertainment, educational, or informational based. The new media project must be related to a television or feature film project that is also seeking equity from Film Nova Scotia.

In the event that Film Nova Scotia does not have an equity investment in the television or feature film project, the producer must provide assurances that the financial and recoupment structures of the new media property are stand alone and not cross collateralised in any way with the television or feature film project.

Feature Film Distribution Assistance

This program contributes, in the form of a recoupable advance, to the theatrical release costs of a Nova Scotia produced film. The objective is to increase the Canadian box office returns of locally produced dramatic, documentary or animated feature films.



CBC/Film Nova Scotia Bridge Award

This award is granted to eligible emerging producers to produce a six to sixteen minute long television production. It is a combination of a regional broadcast license from the CBC, CBC services, and a Film Nova Scotia equity investment.

Partnerships in Training

This program invests in training initiatives that seek to develop a new generation of filmmakers in Nova Scotia. The intent of the program is to foster skills development at all levels to ensure a vibrant film industry within the province.

Sponsorship

This program provides assistance to established organizations to sponsor activities or events that foster the growth of the film, television and new media industry in Nova Scotia.

Market and Festival Assistance

This program is to assist producers to develop new markets for local productions. The aim of this assistance is to help foster professional contacts that may lead to co-production opportunities, and to raise the profile of Nova Scotia production companies.

Professional Development Assistance

This program assists local producers to advance their career development through attendance at skills development seminars, workshops, and industry-related programs.

Location Filming

The Halifax International Airport is the Atlantic Canadian hub for all domestic, regional and international services. Air service to Nova Scotia is available from all Canadian, American and European locations through connecting hubs at major cities. Charter services are also available.

Nova Scotia is:

- Two hours closer to Europe than any other mainland North American destination.
- Geographically closer to New York and Boston than any other city in Canada.
- Non-stop U.S. bound travelers can pre-clear U.S. customs in Halifax.
- Nova Scotia is in the Atlantic time zone – one hour ahead of New York, four hours ahead of Los Angeles and four hours behind London





Weather

Nova Scotia's climate is largely defined by the sea, which almost entirely surrounds the province. Coastal locations tend to be several degrees cooler than inland locations due to the cooling effect of the Atlantic Ocean and the Bay of Fundy. A breakdown of the seasons in Nova Scotia is as follows:

Spring: March 20 – June 20

Very green with trees and plants in bloom and mild daily temperatures in the 10 to 15 degrees Celsius range (50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit).

Summer: June 21 – September 21

The warmest season of the year with average daily temperatures in the 20 to 25 degrees Celsius range (70 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit).

Fall: September 22 – December 20

Very colourful, with leaves changing from green to a medley of vibrant reds, oranges and yellows. Cooler temperatures averaging in the 10 to 15 degrees Celsius range (50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit) in October and early November and the 0 to 10 degrees Celsius range (30 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit) in late November and December.

Winter: December 21 – March 19

This is the coldest season of the year with average temperatures ranging from -1 to -15 degrees Celsius (0 to 30 degrees Fahrenheit). Snow is typically present during this time.

Current weather forecasts and historical climate data are available from Environment Canada Weather Centre at 902-426-9090 or www.weatheroffice.gc.ca.

Permits

Federal Property

Parks Canada operates two national parks in Nova Scotia – the Cape Breton Highlands National Park and Kejimikujik National Park. There are also 23 national historic sites throughout the province, including the outstanding Halifax Citadel and the Fortress of Louisbourg both of which served as film locations. For more information, contact: 902-426-1995 or 902-733-3545

Provincial Property

Film Nova Scotia is your first contact for filming on provincial property. Most provincial departments utilize a standard procedure and application process to facilitate access to the province's parks, roads and buildings.

Municipal Property

Film Nova Scotia can be your first point of contact for filming in most municipalities throughout Nova Scotia. When filming in Halifax, please contact the Halifax Film Office at 902-490-5739.

Unions and guilds

ACTRA Maritimes

ACTRA represents professional performers working in film, television, commercials and digital media in the English language in Canada. There are over six hundred ACTRA members who live and work in Nova Scotia.

Contact:

1660 Hollis Street, Suite 103, Halifax, NS B3J 1V7

Tel: 902-420-1404 | Fax: 902-422-0589

maritimes@actra.ca | www.actramaritimes.ca



Chef at Home

DGC – Atlantic Regional Council

The DGC – ARC was formed as a branch of the Directors Guild of Canada in January of 1991. Representing members in 23 categories, the diverse membership of the ARC has experience in film and video in all formats.

Contact:

1657 Barrington Street – Suite 333, Halifax, NS B3J 2A1

Tel: 902-492-3424 or 888-342-6151 | Fax: 902-492-2678

inquiries@dgcatlantic.ca | www.dgcatlantic.ca





IATSE 667 – International Cinematographers Guild

IATSE Local 667 represents professionals in the publicity and camera departments and in all auxiliary equipment necessary to the operation of the camera.

Contact:

9 Gloucester Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 1L8

Tel: 416-368-0072 or 887-368-1667 | Fax: 416-368-6932

camera@iatse667.com | www.iatse667.com

IATSE 849 – Motion Picture Studio Production Technicians

Local 849 represents technicians in 18 different categories and has been in existence since 1990.

Contact:

15 McQuade Lake Crescent, 2nd Floor, Halifax, NS B3S 1C4

Tel: 902-425-2739 | Fax: 902-425-7696

admin@iatse849.com | www.iatse849.com

Federal tax credits

The Federal Government offers two tax credit programs for eligible film and television productions.

Film or Video Production Services Tax Credit Program (PSTC): This program provides incentives to eligible production companies in the form of refundable tax credits based on qualifying Canadian labour costs. The PSTC is valued at 16% of Canadian labour expenditure.

Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit (CPTC): The federal government provides income tax incentives to qualified corporations for the production of Canadian film or video productions. A qualified corporation can receive the CPTC at the rate of 25% of qualified labour expenditures for the production of a Canadian film or video production.

For more information visit: www.pch.gc.ca/cavco

Customs

Goods entering Canada for use in film such as props, costumes, film stock or equipment, may not, under certain conditions, be subject to custom duties and taxes. Production companies that may wish to bring goods into Canada should contact the Canada Border Service Agency prior to importation to determine conditions as well as entry requirements, documentation and importers' responsibilities.

Canada Border Service Agency
Tel: 902-426-7982
Fax: 902-426-8825

Income tax

Under the Canadian Income Tax Act, non-residents who perform independent services behind the scenes on a production in Canada are subject to a withholding tax of 15% of gross income earned in Canada. Non-resident employees working behind the scenes are subject to the same withholding tax as an employee who is a resident of Canada. All non-resident actors performing film or video acting services in Canada are subject to a 23% withholding tax. Payers are required to withhold this amount and remit it regularly to the Canada Revenue Agency.

A waiver or reduction of the normal withholding tax may be requested in certain circumstances.

For more information visit: www.cra-arc.gc.ca

HST

The Harmonized Sales Tax or HST is a 13% value-added tax. This is added to the cost of virtually all goods and services, except employee payroll and certain groceries, acquired in Nova Scotia for use in film production.

Production companies that do not normally carry on business in Canada are entitled to recover the HST paid on goods or services acquired for consumption or use exclusively in the production of copyrighted work. All copies of the work must be exported. Production companies filming in Nova Scotia must be HST registered in order to recoup taxes paid.

For more information visit: www.cra-arc.gc.ca



Amelia



Just Buried



Buried at Sea

Occupational health and safety

The Occupational Health and Safety Act for the province of Nova Scotia outlines the current laws of the province with regard to workplace safety.

For more information visit: www.gov.ns.ca

Foreign workers

Human Resources and Social Development Canada (Service Canada) is the Department that works with an employer to develop a labour market opinion. A positive labour market opinion supports the hiring of a foreign worker for a temporary position in Canada and is one of the requirements that Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) considers when deciding to issue a work permit.

For more information visit: www.hrsdc.gc.ca and www.cic.gc.ca



Animals

For information pertaining to the use of animals in film please contact:

The Nova Scotia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
1600 Bedford Highway, Suite 422
Bedford, NS B4A 1E8
Tel: 902-835-4798
Fax: 902-835-7885
animals@spcans.ca
www.spcans.ca



Chef Abroad