

About the DGC

The Directors Guild of Canada An overview

Mission

The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) exists as the collective voice of the film and television industry.

The DGC takes action at three levels:

- The DGC supports and facilitates member employment opportunity and represents member interests with regard to both the immediate work environments and future concerns as a labour force.
- The DGC substantially expands the creative opportunities and potential of its current and growing membership. The DGC's logistical infrastructure provides comprehensive training and development mechanisms within the context of emerging technologies. These cultivate a high level of professionalism and promote a spirit of collaboration in an extended creative community.
- The DGC is a visionary leader and partner in the development of the international Canadian film and television industry at a policy and professional level. This evolving and multifaceted Canadian film industry will be vibrant, confident and world-recognized for excellence in storytelling from a unique perspective.

Who the DGC represents

The Directors Guild of Canada has over 3700 members in some 48 different job categories in 8 different departments, covering all areas of motion picture production, editing and design. Not all job categories are covered in each production region.

How the DGC works

District Councils

The Directors Guild of Canada consists of a National Office in Toronto and seven District Councils, each headquartered in a major production centre of the region it represents: Alberta, the Atlantic Region, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan. All members are national members and are affiliated with the District Council in whose jurisdiction they live.

Five of the seven DGC district councils have a Standard Agreement. This includes Alberta, the Atlantic Region, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan. British Columbia has a separate agreement, and Quebec is currently negotiating one with the Quebec producers' association.

All new members apply to the DGC through their respective District Councils, who decide on member admission and upgrade, in conjunction with the National Membership and Training Committee (NM&T). Their decisions are reviewed and approved by the National Executive Board (NEB). (See Fact Sheet 3, DGC Member Services.)

Members of each District Council vote to elect their own District Council Chair and Executive Board. Each Council Chair has a seat on the National Executive Board (NEB) of the DGC. The National President and Secretary-Treasurer and representatives for each category (Directors, Assistant Directors, Production Department, Location Managers, Art Department, Editing Department and Accounting Department) are elected to the NEB by full members of the DGC.

The NEB makes decisions on the direction, national and international policies and initiatives of the DGC.

National Responsibilities

- The National Executive Board (NEB) is the governing board of the DGC.
- National is the exclusive voice of the DGC on all national and international policy issues.
- National forms alliances and acts jointly with other national and international organisations to enhance and protect members' interests.
- National promotes and markets DGC members.
- National communicates to members, the industry, government, quasi-governmental bodies, the media and the general public on all national and international issues.
- National maintains membership standards and admits, suspends and terminates members.
- National represents directors and participates in the negotiation of the Directors' schedule of collective agreements.
- National negotiates collective agreements with federal and private national broadcasters under Federal Status of the Artist legislation.
- National negotiates, manages and administers members' National benefits plans.
- National produces the DGC Awards.
- National acts as a resource and information centre for District Councils.
- National is the home of the National Directors Division (NDD).

District Council Responsibilities

- District Councils uphold the National mandate.
- District Councils promote their Council concerns and interests at National Executive Board (NEB).
- District Councils negotiate and administer collective agreements.
- District Councils coordinate and collect director buyouts in cooperation with the Directors Rights Collective of Canada (DRCC).
- District Councils implement permit policies.
- District Councils lobby at local and provincial levels in consultation with National.
- District Councils form alliances and join actions with other provincial organisations to enhance and protect members' interests.
- District Councils recruit new members within existing DGC categories.
- District Councils act as a resource for producers.
- District Councils attract production to the District Councils.
- District Councils promote and market members.
- District Councils deliver training in coordination with the National Membership Admissions Committee (NMAC) where applicable.

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DGC affiliations

The Directors Guild of Canada is an active partner and participant in strengthening and promoting the Canadian motion picture industries, in the development of all DGC members, and in protecting the rights of creators worldwide. As such we have been active participants in, and sponsors and members of, numerous Canadian and international events and organisations.

Actors Fund of Canada
Association Internationale des Auteurs de l'Audiovisuel (AIDAA) (International Association of Audiovisual Writers and Directors)
Canadian Film Centre (CFC) – DGC scholarship
Coalition Against Satellite Signal Theft (CASST)
Coalition for Cultural Diversity (CCD)
DGC Entertainment Ventures Corp. (EVC)
Directors Rights Collective of Canada (DRCC)
International Forum of Directors Organisations (IFDO)
Union Network International/Media Entertainment International (UNI/MEI)
International Standard Audiovisual Number (ISAN)
Coalition of Canadian Audio-Visual Unions (CCAU)
Canadian Television Fund (CTF) Renewal Coalition
Pan-industry Association (CFTIC)