

Common Questions about DGC Membership and the DGC-NFB Agreement

1. Who can qualify to become a member of the DGC with respect to the NFB Agreement?

Currently, if you have signed a contract or are going to sign a contract at the NFB, you are eligible for DGC membership.

2. I've just signed a contract at the NFB and I understand that I can become a member of the DGC. How do I do that?

Go online to the membership section of DGC website (<http://www.dgc.ca/page.php?id=303>), download and complete the NFB Directors' Application Form, and submit it to: Chandra Menard, Directors Guild of Canada, 111 Peter St. #402, Toronto, ON, M5V 2H1.

3. What are the benefits of becoming a DGC member?

Founded over forty years ago, the DGC protects and promotes the interests of its members, and the film, television, and new media industries in which they work by establishing minimum rates and conditions in the Agreement. Further, its members benefit by belonging to the DGC Health and Welfare and RSP plans. Other benefits of DGC membership include advocacy and policy work, collective bargaining, royalty collection, and a number of other services and support mechanisms.

4. I understand that once I join, I will be enrolled in the DGC's health plan. Where can I get more information about this?

Once your membership is activated, you will receive brochures with information about your plan coverage. If you have further questions about the plan, contact Suzanne Maunder, the DGC Health & Welfare Coordinator at (426) 482-6640 x 234 or smaunder@dgc.ca.

5. I have questions as to how the RSP will work. Who can I talk to about this?

Once your membership is activated, you will receive brochures with information about the RSP package. If you have further questions, contact Lesley Lucas, the DGC National Director of Membership Services at (426) 482-6640 x 224 or llucas@dgc.ca.

6. Do I have to join the DGC?

No, but as a non-member, you will be required to pay a higher check off and you will not be able to access any of the DGC benefits.

7. What is the DRCC and why do I automatically become a member when I join the DGC?

The Directors Rights Collective of Canada (DRCC) collects and distributes royalties for audiovisual directors working in all genres, including animation, documentary, feature film, television series and short form film. By joining, your contact information is on file at the DRCC and your credits are registered with our foreign partners, should there be any royalties for you. For more information, visit the DRCC page (<http://www.dgc.ca/page.php?id=601>) of the DGC website, email drcc@dgc.ca, or call Hans Engel, DRCC & NDD Manager, at (416) 482-6640 x 237.

8. I understand that my DGC fees are waived for the first year. When will I have to start paying dues?

It depends on when you join. Contact the DGC Membership Department for more information at membership@dgc.ca.

9. I used to be a member of the DGC but no longer am. Do I still qualify for the temporary dues exemption?

Yes.

10. Where can I find a copy of the DGC-NFB Collective Agreement for 2009-2012?

Online at <http://www.dgc.ca/page.php?id=504>.

11. Can I negotiate terms and conditions greater than those specified in the DGC-NFB Collective Agreement?

Yes, the rates and benefits outlined in the agreement are minimums.

12. What are the benefits of this Agreement for me?

The DGC has negotiated terms and conditions for directors that protect and promote their creative rights, secure favourable employment conditions, and establish minimum fees.

13. I'm a web-based creator. Does this Agreement apply to me?

The Agreement applies to any content creation, regardless of the platform. Directing rates at the NFB are determined by the final length of the production, not by how the material is distributed.

14. I have specific question about the Agreement, my rates and working conditions, or about my contract with the NFB. Where can I find that information?

The full Agreement is posted on the DGC website (<http://www.dgc.ca/page.php?id=504>). For further questions, contact Brian Baker, DGC Director of Directors' Affairs at 1 (888) 972-0098 or bbaker@dgc.ca.

15. Can director fees be deferred on co-productions?

In general, no. But contact Brian Baker at 1 (888) 972-0098 or bbaker@dgc.ca to discuss special circumstances or variances on the contract.

16. I am being hired by an independent co-producer who is working with the NFB. Will I be protected under this Agreement?

If the NFB has a financial contribution of at least 40% in the production, the independent co-producer is obligated to use the DGC-NFB contract. The same protections apply.

17. If I have an issue or a problem on a production. What do I do?

Contact Brian Baker at 1 (888) 972-0098 or bbaker@dgc.ca.