

Links

[PACT online course link](#)

We encourage you to take the PACT course from The Shine Network Institute, a cultural awareness and competency course designed for non-Indigenous professionals in the entertainment industry.

[Disabled Producers Lab program information](#)

Information about the Disabled Producers Lab

[Disabled Producers Lab application form](#)

Online application form for the Disabled Producers Lab. Includes information about alternative ways to submit your application.

[FAQs about the Disabled Producers Lab](#)

Frequently asked questions about the Disabled Producers Lab.

Key dates

- Deadline to request application support: July 19, 2024
- Applications close: July 22, 2024
- All applicants notified by: September 30, 2024 (TBC)
- Program dates (TBC): Sessions are predicted to be around October 28, 2024 - February 12, 2025. Feedback gathering ends around March 20, 2025.

Further questions

If you have further questions, please contact peer support coordinator Dennie Park – dpl@nsi-canada.ca.

Webinar Q&A

Questions and answers are paraphrased for length and clarity.

Are documentary shorts acceptable?

Unfortunately, not at this time. It's only going to be scripted short films. Hopefully, we get a chance to deliver other iterations in the future. To ensure that we can have an even playing field for the five that are coming in this time, only scripted films are accepted.

What if you are not a writer but want to learn how to get the rights to the script?

At this point for our program, we just need some written form of confirmation such as an email or letter from the writer who wrote the script. But we will work with you if you're selected for the program to figure out how that process fully works down the line, such as license agreements or options agreements between a writer and a producer.

Does the script have to be a short film or can it be a feature film?

It does have to be a short film (10 minutes max). If you have a feature film that you're really excited about, maybe consider creating a short or a teaser based on it that we could work on in the program. It's a great way to have a concept piece that could support your feature in the future and help you get funding for it.

How much production experience are you looking for ideally?

The program is a little bit unconventional in that we're looking for people who have experience in beginning a project, bringing people together and seeing it through to completion, but that experience does not have to be in the film and TV world. This experience could have taken place in community organizing, visual arts exhibition spaces, theatre and other forms of live performance.

We recognize the existing barriers in the industry so we're looking for people who have some experience putting together and managing a team on a project, putting together a budget, working on a timeline, etc.

If you are from the film or TV world in a creative space as a director, writer or actor who has experienced film life but wants to make that step up, that's also okay because you will bring a different perspective and set of experiences. The key is that you're ready to examine the accessible way of doing things and how we can do things a little differently.

Will we also be trained in how to navigate this industry that is predominantly white, able-bodied and cisheteropatriarchal?

I believe it will definitely be part of our discussion. We'll discuss the many challenges even when building your own team and how you're selling your project. I think that will be part of our disability community perspective discussions. How to outline those pieces will be important for the report as well.

Do you need a film to apply or just the script?

You only need the script to apply, not a film.

Is there a specific length required for the short film?

Ideally, it will be 10 minutes max.

How will you determine who will be selected and what are you specifically looking for since it's not based on our scripts?

We're searching for people who are aligned with the program - people who are really interested in pursuing producing, who want to explore this as their career and who are interested in exploring that in a way that centers accessibility and brings their own questions and thoughts on how they want their producing practice to be.

We also really want to make sure that the people we're bringing together will bring a range of experiences and perspectives as part of generating these discussions and learning from each other.

Overall, we want to find people who are interested in becoming a producer and are interested in exploring what a more disability-centered production practice can look like and some of it is going to be about the overall fit of the specific group.

How many participants in the program will be accepted?

Up to five participants will be selected from across Canada.

What is the timeline of the program?

The application deadline is July 22. The selection committee will review applications until around the end of August, and all applicants will be notified by around September 30.

We will onboard participants somewhere in the first three weeks of October. We plan to start the program by October 28 through to February 12. There will be one to two sessions a week and a two-week break between December 23, 2024 and January 3, 2025 for the holidays. Then there will be a postmortem period afterwards for about five weeks and end around March 20, 2025.

What access supports are available for participants and guests?

Access is very personal, and we'll have a period where we can get to know each other and figure out access and individual ways of working together for our group as a whole. Some examples of access supports that we are ready to provide include ASL interpretation, live captioning, having Dennie present as a peer support coordinator, note taking, recordings, asynchronous ways of working together (like open documents that people can work on at different times) and flexible deadlines.

The whole point of this program is to think of ways we can expand how we work to allow each of us to individually thrive. That might be looking at asynchronous ways of working together, having recordings, recording our sessions, having open documents that people can chime in on at different points in time, flexible deadlines, and offering different forms of one-on-one support.

We also know that things change. As different needs come up, we'll be checking in on what's working and what's not and adjust accordingly. The most important part of this program is making sure that each participant can engage with it in a way that allows them to bring their full selves and that is our commitment to this space.

Can you give a rough idea of what the process will look like?

We are all working remotely but we will be working as a group to discuss the different elements of production. You'll be working with your mentors and with us to figure out what things like the budget or crewing up might be for your project. You will always be responsible in the end for finalizing and creating it, but we are all here to help you brainstorm and help you figure out the process that makes sense for what you want to do.

Our hope is by the end of this program, you'll have a collection of these elements for your short film such as a budget, schedule and a pitch. A big part of that is to give you the knowledge to do it again. We're figuring out how you want to work and you can apply it all over again for any other project going forward.

If I am on government support, how will I be paid?

We are all aware of the intricacies of balancing funds and government support. We will work with you to understand how you need your funds to be dispensed. For example, it could be a one-time payment or it can be spread out over a certain period.

Who will the mentors and experts be?

Mentors and experts will be selected once we know who the participants are. Overall, they're going to be a mix of people working within the Canadian industry to understand how things work within this ecosystem. We also expect to have international guests and mentors who are doing some great work in disability-forward productions to get a sense of what's happening in different places.

Should we apply for a grant to help create a pitch?

There are not many grants. There are a couple of accessible grants from the arts councils that you can add when you're applying for funding for an actual film. But developing a pitch is something you typically do on your own without funding, especially in the short film world. This program can hopefully help you with that. If you get into television there are more funding options but, within the short film space, you're usually developing by yourself.