

For immediate release  
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**The COGECO Program Development Fund innovates with a new funding program.**

**The 2008 interactive Annual Report is now online.**

Canadian independent producers are now eligible for a new source of early stage development funding. In order to stimulate the creation and development of innovative dramatic television concepts, the Cogeco Fund will provide development funding for dramatic series, mini-series and MOW's which are at the pre-development stage and have *not* yet obtained a broadcaster commitment. This new funding program will complement traditional financial commitments of producers at this high risk stage of development of new projects. Eligible production companies may apply for up to \$10,000 per year as of the next Cogeco application deadline on March 1, 2009 to finance the costs of developing the materials required to pitch new projects to broadcasters and financial partners. Guidelines and eligibility criteria are available at [www.ipf.ca/Cogeco/English/guidelines.html](http://www.ipf.ca/Cogeco/English/guidelines.html). The Guidelines and Application Forms for all the Cogeco Fund funding programs have been updated and revised. As well as the new Pre-Development funding initiative, the other funding programs include Development advances, Cross-platform development advances, Theatrical Feature Film Corporate advances and Production equity investments for MOW's, mini-series and pilots for dramatic series.

The Cogeco Program Development Fund has invested \$21.7 M in the television and film industry in Canada for the development and production of dramatic productions, since 1993. Adapting to the evolving needs of the industry, the Cogeco Fund added a new program to address industry demand for support for early stage development funding of cross-platform projects in 2008.

The 2008 Annual Report of the Cogeco Fund is available online in an interactive version at [www.ipf.ca/Cogeco/English/reports.html](http://www.ipf.ca/Cogeco/English/reports.html). This dynamic Report includes videos from funded projects, links, and photos which promote our productions, producers and talents.

The Cogeco Program Development Fund is the only private independent Fund in Canada with the mandate to develop dramatic series, movies-of-the-week and mini-series and to invest in the production pilots for series, MOW's and mini-series. The Fund is administered by the Independent Production Fund with annual contributions from Cogeco Cable and an endowment from Cogeco Inc. Application deadlines are March 1, July 1 and October 1.

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