

OMDC: "Culture is our Business." Promoting growth and investment in Ontario's book and magazine publishing, film and television, music and interactive digital media industries

OMDC Rolls Out Programs for Ontario's Cultural Sectors

OMDC kicked off summer by launching a variety of funding programs for Ontario's cultural media companies. Many of these programs are geared to give Ontario companies the opportunity to explore innovative new business strategies with the flexibility to plan for the entire year ahead. Already, many companies across the six sectors have been attending OMDC's information sessions, reading the guidelines and asking questions to ensure that they put the best application forward. All of OMDC's Fund programs go through a competitive evaluation.

On June 21, OMDC launched a new program called the **OMDC Export Fund**, which replaces its Market Access Program. Through this new program, successful applicants can receive financial support to cover up to 50 per cent of the costs of participating in international market events, missions and sales trips from Sept. 1, 2006 to Aug. 31, 2007. The program provides companies with the flexibility to choose the events most suited to their export development strategy.

OMDC Export Fund is available to each of Ontario's book, film and television, interactive digital media and music industries. Each sector has a different application deadline: the music industry's is July 12, 2006, film/television is July 13, interactive digital media is July 13 and the book industry deadline is July 28. Depending on the stream, companies can receive up to \$10,000. More information, including guidelines and application forms, is online at omdc.on.ca under Programs / OMDC Export Fund.

On June 14, OMDC issued its annual call for applications for the **OMDC Book Fund**. Similar in format to previous years, this program supports Canadian-owned, Ontario-based publisher activities related to marketing opportunities for their publishing programs and for building the profile of their results. The deadline for this program is coming up on July 14. Go to OMDC's website under Programs / OMDC Book Fund to view guidelines and application forms. Eligible publishers may also apply to the **OMDC Export Fund - Book** for funds of up to \$7,500 to attend international fairs and conferences, as well as specific international sales trips. Complete details and application forms are available on the OMDC website; the deadline is July 28, 2006.

A new round for the **OMDC Magazine Fund** was also recently announced. This program provides assistance of up to \$25,000 in funding to Ontario-based magazine publishers for projects that support the overall business

growth and increase the financial viability of the magazine publisher. As with the other OMDC Fund programs, this is a competitive program and the publishers must include the expected financial results from their proposed activity. The deadline for applications is Aug. 24, 2006. Interested magazine publishers are encouraged to attend an upcoming Information Session regarding this particular program on July 20. For complete details, see OMDC's website.

This summer the music industry has the opportunity to apply for the two major programs offered by OMDC: The **OMDC Music Fund** and the above-mentioned **OMDC Export Fund - Music**. The OMDC Music Fund, geared to record companies and music publishers, offers up to \$25,000 to assist in the growth of the company through the creation and implementation of new strategic business and marketing initiatives. The deadline to apply to this program is Aug. 8, 2006. The **OMDC Export Fund - Music** will offer up to \$10,000 for record companies to attend international conferences, markets and to cover costs associated with international business trips. The deadline to apply to this program is July 12. Program guidelines and application forms for both programs are available on the OMDC website under Music / Programs.

This year, in addition to the new **OMDC Export Fund - Film and Television**, the film industry will also be able to apply for another major program: **The OMDC Film Fund**. Building on the success of last year's pilot Film Initiative program, the **OMDC Film Fund** will have two deadlines to apply: Aug. 9, 2006 and Jan. 12, 2007. The fund will be for late-stage development or production financing, on a last-in basis, of dramatic and documentary feature films. The **OMDC Export Fund - Film and Television**, will offer up to \$10,000 to cover up to 50 per cent of the costs for film and television production companies to attend international conferences, markets and to cover costs associated with international business trips. The deadline for this program is July 13, 2006. Program Guidelines and Application Forms for both programs are available on the OMDC website.

If you have any questions regarding the guidelines or application forms, OMDC program consultants are happy to answer them prior to the deadline of each program. Important frequently asked questions (FAQs) may be posted on OMDC's website as they arise. Be sure to check that you have included all important documentation and ensure you take note of submission deadlines for this fiscal year. Good luck!

OMDC Initiatives and Fund Program Deadlines

MUSIC INDUSTRY

- July 12: OMDC Export Fund - Music
- Aug. 8: OMDC Music Fund

INTERACTIVE DIGITAL MEDIA INDUSTRY

- July 13: OMDC Export Fund—Interactive Digital Media

BOOK INDUSTRY

- July 14: OMDC Book Fund
- July 28: OMDC Export Fund—Book

MAGAZINE INDUSTRY

- July 20: Register to attend the Magazine Fund Information Session
- Aug. 24: OMDC Magazine Fund .

FILM & TELEVISION INDUSTRY

- July 13: OMDC Export Fund—Film & Television
- July 18: OMDC Film Fund Information Session
- July 31: International Finance Forum at TIFF®
- Aug. 9: OMDC Film Fund Round 1
- Jan. 12, 2007: OMDC Film Fund Round 2

July 31 | Deadline to apply for OMDC's inaugural **International Finance Forum**, taking place on Sept. 8 at the Toronto International Film Festival's® Match Club. Offered in partnership with UK Trade and Investment, this one-day co-financing event will bring together Canadian and international feature film producers with potential production and financing partners, sales agents and distributors. A schedule of intensive one-on-one meetings, keynote speakers and networking sessions will focus on all aspects of international financing. For guidelines and application

Congratulations!

Among the winners at the **2006 Banff World Television Awards**, the Playback Best Canadian Award went to *God Only Knows: Same-Sex Marriage* produced by Joe Media Group in association with CBC Newsworld. In the Interactive category, *ReGenesis II: Extended Reality Game*, produced by Xenophile Media in association with Shaftesbury Films, came up a winner.

The **29th Annual National Magazine Awards** were held June 9, and in keeping with its many nominations, *The Walrus* took home 13 Gold and three Silver awards, more than any other magazine. *Saturday Night* won two Gold and six Silver awards. *Explore* won three Golds and three Silvers, while *Toronto Life* won two Gold and four Silver awards. The Foundation Award for Outstanding Achievement was presented to John Macfarlane, who gave an inspiring speech to the audience.

Congratulations to the winners of the **World Wide Short Film Festival Awards**. Ten awards and \$125,000 in cash prizes were awarded at a ceremony on June 18. Ontario winners include Greg Spottiswood, who won the Award for Best Canadian Short Film and \$5,000 for his film *NOISE*. Director Chris Nash (film: *Day of John*) shared the Jackson-Triggs Award for Best Emerging Canadian Filmmaker with Maxime Giroux of Quebec. The \$5,000 Kodak Award for Best Cinematography in a Canadian Short went to director and cinematographer Tess Girard for *Benediction*. For more information on the awards, see worldwideshortfilmfestival.com.

The formidable Stephen Lewis was honoured recently at the Canadian Booksellers Association's **Libris Awards** for Author of the Year and Non-Fiction Book of the Year for his book *Race Against Time* (House of Anansi Press). Lewis's book was also a finalist in the 19th Annual Trillium Book Awards. Ellen Seligman of McClelland & Stewart was named Publisher of the Year at the Libris Awards. For a complete list of all the winners, see cbabook.org.

On July 4, the shortlist for the \$20,000 **Polaris Music Prize** was announced. The nominees from Ontario are:

- Broken Social Scene for *Broken Social Scene* (Arts & Crafts/EMI)
- Cadence Weapon for *Breaking Kayfabe* (Upper Class/EMI)
- The Deadly Snakes for *Porcella* (Paper Bag/Universal)
- Final Fantasy for *He Poos Clouds* (Blocks Recording Club/Sonic Unyon)
- Sarah Harmer for *I'm A Mountain* (Cold Snap/Universal)
- K'naan for *The Dusty Foot Philosopher* (Track & Field/Sony BMG)
- Metric for *Live It Out* (Last Gang/Universal)

Congratulations to all nominees. For a complete list, see polarismusicprize.ca.

Evan Jones of Xenophile Media took first place and \$5,000 at **nextPitch, the Short-Form Multi-Platform Content Pitch** in mid June. For details see next-media2006.com.

Upcoming Events & Industry Deadlines

July 13 | **The Inukshuk Fund** – Inukshuk Wireless and the Ontario Inukshuk Advisory are inviting learning communities to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) for funding of either innovative and creative e-learning content development projects or wireless broadband connectivity projects. www.inukshuk.ca.

July 17 | Application deadline for the **Toronto International Film Festival's Talent Lab**. For information and to download application forms visit <http://industry.tiffg.ca/talentlab.html>.

July 19 | **Optimize your website** for the best search engine results. A Periodical Writers' Association seminar. Takes place from 10 am to 3:45 pm at 66 Roncesvalles Avenue. \$125 or \$95 for PWAC members. For information see pwactoronto.org.

July 21 | Deadline for music industry to apply to showcase at **The Canadian Music Café** at the Toronto International Film Festival®, produced by SOCAN, CRIA, CIRPA, CMPA in association with the Toronto International Film Festival®. For information contact Chris Teeter, Canadian Music Café, by writing to PO Box 52440, 524 Queen St W., Toronto, ON M5V 2B0, write to canadianmusiccafe@sympatico.ca or call 416-792-2794. To download an application form go to canadianmusiccafe.com.

July 27 | Telefilm Canada is currently soliciting applications from Canadian production and distribution companies for **MIPCOM 2006** Cannes, France (Oct. 9 to 13). For details contact charboa@telefilm.gc.ca.

July 28 | Entry deadline for the **Cabbagetown Short Film & Video Festival**. No entry fee. Films should be a maximum of 15 minutes long, and submitted on VHS NTSC or DVD formats, along with application form to the festival office. Application forms are online at cabbagetownshortfilmandvideofestival.com or call Gina Dineen, Festival Coordinator, at 416-924-3514.

July 31 | Deadline to confirm participation in the **Canada Pavilion at the Tokyo Game Show 2006** (Sept. 22 to 24) organized by the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo. More information on this event is at <http://tgs.cesa.or.jp/english/>. A limited number of exhibitor spots remain, available on a first-come, first-served basis. Delegate registrations will be accepted until the end of July. For details contact Stephane-Enric Beaulieu, jpn.commerce@international.gc.ca, (81-3) 5412-6232 or visit eciq.net/tokyogameshow2006.

Aug. 9 | **The Art of the Query Letter**: How to sell your article ideas to editors. Takes place from 10 am to 3:45

pm at 66 Roncesvalles Avenue. \$125 or \$95 for PWAC members. See pwactoronto.org for details.

Aug. 14 | Deadline to apply for the **Canada New Media Fund**. Guidelines available at telefilm.gc.ca.

Aug. 15 | Deadline to apply to the **4th Annual LivePitch** at the Austin Game Conference (Sept. 6 to 8, 2007). LivePitch will take place on Sept. 7 and 8. Participants will have the opportunity to put their unsigned development projects in front of the world's leading game publishers. For more information and to register visit gameconference.com/livepitch

Aug. 22 | **Academy of Canadian Film and Television** is offering 50 per cent off first year's members until August 22. You will also receive a vote in the 21st Annual Gemini Awards, Canada's premier television awards (Voting members Television Division only – see the website for details on requirements), see Canadian films in the theatres at no charge and have a chance to win one of three great iPods in our Membership Roundup Raffle. For details on how to join go to academy.ca/jointoday.

Sept. 12-14 | **Ontario Wireless & Mobile Content Trade Mission, Los Angeles**. Join a trade mission to CTIA Wireless & Entertainment 2006. Meet leading decisionmakers interested in acquiring wireless technologies for the enterprise and vertical business markets. Exhibitors will include leading providers such as Qualcomm, Verisign, Intel, Palm and Nokia. Eight Ontario companies will have the opportunity to exhibit in the Ontario Pavilion, located near the entrance to the conference rooms and close to the Lucent pavilion. Ontario delegates will also be able to publicly introduce their company to attendees at the Ontario Business Partnering Reception, receive an up-to-date database of VARs and distributors and more. Cost per company: US\$1,750. wirelessit.com

Sept. 17-22 | **China Access 2008** is a unique regional mission focused on investment and business partnering opportunities with specific emphasis on the ICT and creative industries. The mission will run from Sept. 17 to 22 and will visit Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou. The registration fee is US\$1,000. For more information or to make a reservation for this special event contact Andrew Gilkes at agilkes@chinaaccess2008.com or Hal Josephson at haljo@mac.com.

Nov. 18-20 | **Print World 2006** (Formerly known as Print Ontario) at the National Trade Centre, CNE, Toronto. For information call 905-625-7070 or see printworldshow.com.

Upcoming Markets and Festivals

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| July 6-9 | Tokyo International Book Fair 2006. reedexpo.co.jp/tibf/english/ |
| Aug. 21-23 | GC (Game Convention) Developers' Conference 2006 (GCDC).
www.gcdc.de |
| Aug. 31-Dec. 2 | Toronto Independent Games Conference. George Brown College, Casa Loma.
torontoigc.com |
| Aug. 30-Sept. 2 | Beijing International Book Fair 2006. bibf.net |
| Sept. 7-16 | Toronto International Film Festival®, Toronto. www.e.bell.ca/filmfest |
| Sept. 12-14 | CTIA Wireless IT and Entertainment. wirelessit.com |
| Sept. 16-24 | Cinéfest Sudbury, Sudbury, Ont. cinefest.com |
| Sept. 17 | Strategic Partners, Halifax. atlanticfilm.com . |
| Sept. 17-22 | Growth Economies/ Growth Industries of the 21st Century: China Moves Higher.
chinaaccess2008.com |
| Sept. 20-22 | POPKOMM, Berlin, Germany. www.popkomm.com |
| Sept. 20-24 | Ottawa International Animation Festival. http://ottawa.awn.com/ |
| Sept. 22-24 | Tokyo GameShow , Tokyo, Japan. http://tgs.cesa.or.jp/english/ |
| Sept. 24 | The Word On The Street, Toronto. thewordonthestreet.ca/toronto.php |
| Nov. 18-20 | Print World 2006, Toronto. printworldshow.com |

We Welcome Your Feedback

What additions to this newsletter would you find helpful? What do you like? What don't you like? We want to make sure we're providing helpful information, and we welcome your feedback. Send an e-mail to newsletter@omdc.on.ca and let us know!