

Prince Edward Island Film Production Fund Deeming

Deeming is a way for a production to have imported labour be “deemed” as a resident of the jurisdiction for the duration of the employee(s) time working in the jurisdiction where production is happening.

Deeming is only available via pre-approval of deemed position and trainee(s), where it has been evidenced that no PEI resident is qualified and available to fill the role requested for deeming. The approach is akin to a simplified version of acquiring a Labour Market Opinion to support a request to offer employment to a skilled worker through an immigration stream.

This is a benefit to the production as it means the incentive will apply to that employee as if they were a local worker. It is a benefit to the jurisdiction in that the deemed employees must provide training and/or mentoring to local production workers. This training increases the capacity of the jurisdiction to provide professional crew to future productions.

Deeming is generally used for “Below the Line” crew members. There are two types of crew members – “Above the Line” refers to the members who are responsible for the creative development of the production and “Below the Line” which are members responsible for day-to-day in production and pre/post-production.

There are only a few film jobs that are consistently above the line—director, executive producer(s), producer(s), screenwriter(s), casting director(s), and principal cast (stars). Occasionally, Director of Photography is included in the above the line credits—however, this is usually only reserved for extremely well-known cinematographers.

Training is required by the deeming provision and is subject to monitoring by IPEI. Required training is flexible and may vary in experience level from entry-level to position upgrades or specific skill enhancements.

Once trainees have been identified and placed on a production, IPEI may monitor their progress through on-set personal interviews and final written reporting required from the production company. IPEI may request set visits to observe the production and verify that trainees are on-the-job and benefiting from skills enhancement.

Each deemed individual must supervise the training of at least one PEI resident within the same department. Departments are generally defined as follows:

Art Department: Production Designer, Art Director, Draftsman/Graphic, Construction, Scenic Painter, Props, Set Decorator, Costume, Make-up, Hair, Special FX

Technical: Camera Department (including D.O.P), Gaffer, Electrics, Genny Operator, Grip Department, Dolly Operator, Sound Mixer, Boom Operator

Production: Accounting, Production Office, Assistance Director, Line Producer, Production Manager, Continuity, Locations, Craft Service, Catering

Post-Production: Picture Edit, Sound Edit

Animation: Animators, 3D Character/Prop Modellers, Programmers, 3D Set Models/Camera Operators; Facial Modellers/Animators; Network Technicians; Archivists; Motion Capture Performers

The proposed, deemed positions are approved contingent upon IPEI verifying that acceptable training opportunities are provided.

If there are positions deemed that are outside of below the line Department Heads, there must be a significant training component to local crew members.

Who do I contact with questions?

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