



## **Commercial Filming Guidelines**

**The Corporation of the City of Welland**

**60 East Main Street, Welland, Ontario  
L3B 3X4**

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# COMMERCIAL FILM GUIDELINES

## 1. City Overview

Located in the heart of the Niagara Region and just minutes away from world-class attractions, the City of Welland is one of Canada's cultural mosaic cities with one-of-a-kind assets and is a truly authentic canal city in Canada with a recreational waterway running through the City's downtown core.

Home to 55,750 residents, the City is home to a vast array of unique assets, including over 400 acres of parkland, 272 acres of waterway, 24km of trails and buildings rich in historical and cultural character.

In addition, the City of Welland is rich in artistic talent, art, and culture. The City of Welland is dedicated to enhancing arts and culture as an integral part of the community. Vibrant, dynamic nods to arts and culture are presented within the City's footprint for residents and visitors to enjoy.

## 2. Document Purpose

This document aims to establish guidelines for television, student filming, not-for-profit filming, and movie productions on municipal properties within the City of Welland. This policy shall ensure that any commercial filming does not cause harm to the environment, property, or public safety.

## 3. Industry Overview

The commercial film industry in Ontario, Canada, is a significant contributor to the province's economy. The province is home to a thriving film and television production industry, with many major studios and production companies based in the region. Ontario has a long history of producing high-quality films and television shows, and the industry continues to grow and evolve. In recent years, the province has seen an increase in the number of productions being filmed in Ontario, as well as an increase in the number of jobs and economic opportunities in the industry. The commercial film industry in Ontario is a vibrant and dynamic sector that plays a crucial role in the province's creative economy.

#### 4. Why Choose Welland

The City of Welland has played host to many prestigious productions, including:

- Recommendation for Mercy (1975)
- Baseball Girls (1995)
- Blues Brothers 2000 (1998)
- Casino Jack (2010)
- Don't Call me Bambino (2012)
- Mulch (2013)
- The Hotel Dieu (2015)
- Fight! (2018)
- The Rangers (Bloodstone) (2021)
- Handmaid's Tale (2021 & 2022)
- The Amazing Race Canada (2023)
- All Around Champions (2023)

#### 5. Points of Contact

The main point of contact for commercial filming on city-owned property and streets in the City of Welland will be the Recreation, Sport and Culture Team. They can be reached at [filming@welland.ca](mailto:filming@welland.ca).

#### 6. Permit and Insurance Requirements

All productions must have commercial general liability insurance of not less than \$5 million per occurrence and must name the Corporation of the City of Welland as an additional insured.

A permit application must be submitted at least (2) two weeks prior to the start of filming.

The permit application must include:

- A completed permit application form
- A detailed filming schedule and locations
- Names of the key personnel involved in the project (director, producer, etc.)
- Times and dates that filming will take place
- Production Level (Level 1, 2 or 3)
- Name of Production Company
- Proof of commercial general liability insurance
- Any necessary road closure or traffic control plans
- Payment of the permit application fee (see below for fees)

## 7. Production Levels and Fees

There are three levels of production with associated fees as follows:

### Level 1 Productions and Fees:

*(Feature Films, Documentaries, TV Series, Miniseries, Reality TV Shows and Short Movies):*

- **Permit application fee:** \$60.00 (one-time fee – nonrefundable)
- **Location use fee:** Please contact the office.
- **Road closure permit fee:** Please contact the office.

### Level 2 Productions and Fees:

*(Commercials, Music Videos):*

- **Permit application fee:** \$40.00 (one-time fee – nonrefundable)
- **Location use fee:** Please contact the office.
- **Road closure permit fee:** Please contact the office.

### Level 3 Productions and Fees:

*(Independent Film, Student Film, News, and media outlet filming and photography):*

- **Permit application fee:** \$0.00
- **Location use fee:** \$0.00
- **Road closure permit fee:** Please contact the office.

*All fees are subject to annual indexing.*

## 8. Incentives and Resources

There are several resources that provide incentives to the commercial film industry. These include:

- **Ontario Creates:** Ontario Creates offers a range of programs and services to support the growth and success of Ontario's film, television, and digital media industries. [Ontario Creates](#)
- **Canada Media Fund (CMF):** The CMF is a federal funding agency that supports the development and production of Canadian content in the audiovisual and digital media industries. [Home - Canada Media Fund \(cmf-fmc.ca\)](#)
- **Ontario Film and Television Tax Credit (OFTTC):** The OFTTC is a refundable tax credit that provides support to eligible Ontario-based productions. <https://www.ontariocreates.ca/tax-incentives/ofttc>
- **Ontario Production Services Tax Credit (OPSTC):** The OPSTC is a refundable tax credit that provides support to eligible productions that film in Ontario. [Ontario Production Services Tax Credit \(OPSTC\) - \(ontariocreates.ca\)](#)
- **Telefilm Canada:** Telefilm Canada is a federal cultural agency that supports the development and promotion of Canadian audiovisual content. [Telefilm Canada | Partner of choice](#)
- **Canadian Audio-Visual Certification Office (CAVCO):** CAVCO is a federal agency that administers the tax credits and other incentives for the Canadian film and television industry. [Film and video tax credits - CAVCO - Canada.ca](#)
- **Brock University:** Brock has the oldest — and one of the most distinguished — film studies programs in Canada. The program focuses on critical and historical courses that examine a variety of approaches to film and related media. Film Studies – Academic Programs ([brocku.ca](#))
- **Niagara College Canada:** Broadcasting – Radio, Television and Film Production Studies. [Broadcasting – Radio, Television and Film \(Film Production\) Program | Niagara College](#)
- **Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists (ACTRA) -** [Home - ACTRA National](#)
- **Directors Guild of Canada -** [National » Directors Guild of Canada \(dgc.ca\)](#)
- **UNIFOR NABET 700 –M – Film Union -** [NABET 700-M UNIFOR: Home Page - Public | Ontario Film, Television and New Media Technicians](#)
- **International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees – (IATSE) – Film Union -** [Home - IATSE, The Union Behind Entertainment](#)

## 9. Location Library

The City of Welland has teamed up with Ontario Creates to host its online location library for commercial filming. The location library is an online resource that provides information about the various locations in the City of Welland that are available for commercial filming. The library includes photos and details about each location, as well as information about the permits and fees that may be required for filming. The online location library can be accessed via the Ontario Creates website at <https://www.ontariocreates.ca/filmcommission/locations>. This partnership between the City of Welland and Ontario Creates is intended to make it easier for production companies to find and access the locations they need for their commercial filming projects.

## 10. Standard Prescribed Terms

Any filming on municipally owned properties within the City of Welland must abide by the following:

1. All television and movie productions that take place on municipal properties require a permit from the municipality.
2. The permit application must be submitted at least 2 weeks (business days) in advance of the production date.
3. A non-refundable application fee will be charged for each permit application.
4. The fee amount will be based on the size and scope of the production.
5. Production must also consider the potential impact on the surrounding community, including noise and traffic disruptions.
6. The production schedule must be submitted with the permit application and must not interfere with other scheduled events or activities in the area.
7. All television and movie productions must provide adequate security to ensure public safety and protect municipal and private property.
8. The production company must provide an emergency plan which shall include security and safety procedures with the permit application that includes details on the number of security personnel and their duties.
9. The municipality reserves the right to require additional security measures as deemed necessary.

10. Television and movie productions must comply with all environmental regulations and guidelines.
11. Productions must take measures to minimize their impact on the environment, including proper disposal of waste and pollutants.
12. The production company must restore the site to its original condition after production is complete.
13. Filming on city owned property and streets is subject to all applicable laws and regulations, including any necessary permits or approvals from the City of Welland and other relevant agencies.
14. The production company is responsible for ensuring that filming does not disrupt or interfere with the normal activities of the community, including traffic and pedestrian flow, unless reviewed and approved by the City of Welland, in advance.
15. The production company must comply with all instructions and requirements of the City of Welland and other relevant agencies and must provide adequate notice of any road closures or other disruptions.
16. The production company must clean up and restore any filming locations to their original condition upon completion of filming, at its sole cost and expense to the satisfaction of the City of Welland.
17. The City of Welland reserves the right to revoke a permit at any time if the production company fails to comply with these standard prescribed terms or any applicable laws or regulations.
18. The filmmaker or photographer must also respect the rights of property owners and residents in the areas where filming takes place.
19. All productions must have commercial general liability insurance of not less than \$5 million per occurrence and must name the Corporation of the City of Welland as an additional insured.

*The terms and conditions contained herein are subject to change without notice.*