



**Deadline: April 17th, 2023 at 11:59pm PDT**

# **LEGAL SUBSIDY PROGRAM APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!**

PGC is offering a **Legal Subsidy Program** as part of the Playwrights Resiliency Program to help theatre creators with the financial barriers of seeking legal support. Successful applicants of the program will receive a subsidy of **up to \$500** to pay for legal services related to the protection of their artistic work. For many artists, seeking legal advice can be a luxury or an overlooked aspect of creative management. Through the aid of this program, we want theatre creators to have easier access to professional counsel for protecting their literary assets.

To apply for the Legal Subsidy Program, you must fill out the application form [HERE](#) before the deadline on **April 17th, 2023 at 11:59pm PDT**. You will be asked to provide personal information as well as describe why you are seeking legal advice. Once applications are reviewed, successful applicants will receive a Legal Subsidy of up to \$500 for legal services. Here are some important parameters to follow:

- The Legal Subsidy can only be used to seek legal advice related to your artistic work for the stage. Examples of this might include: Literary Estate Planning, Copyright, Royalties, Stage Production Agreements, Adaptation/Translation Rights, Licensing, Defamation, Public Domain Inquiries, Fair Dealing, Intellectual Property Protection, Insurance, etc.
- Applicants will not receive money from the Legal Subsidy, only the services provided. All legal costs covered by the subsidy will be paid to the lawyers directly by PGC.
- Applicants will only be able to use the Legal Subsidy for legal services provided by PGC's pre-approved list. PGC will direct applicants to legal services from a pre-approved list available in their area. Meetings may have to be conducted virtually.
- PGC will not estimate what the total legal bill is for services provided. Applicants are expected to coordinate and agree upon the total cost of their legal services with the lawyer beforehand. The Legal Subsidy will only cover costs up to \$500. Any additional costs that exceed \$500 will be the responsibility of the artist.

If you are unsure about what to seek legal advice for, we encourage you to attend our **Legal Subsidy Program Pop-Up Kiosk** on **Thursday, March 30th at 3pm EDT** or view our upcoming and archived Legal Stream webinars: **Music Copyright: What You**

**Need to Know; Copyright and Estate Planning; and The Public Lending Rights Program.** Watching these webinars may be highly valuable prior to considering your personal legal plan. Please feel free to email Program Director, Brandon Crone at [communications@playwrightsguild.ca](mailto:communications@playwrightsguild.ca) for any questions regarding eligible legal advice requests.

PGC will fund a maximum of 90 applicants. If we exceed 90 applications, we will prioritize applicants who are 65+ years of age, have greater financial need, and/or belong to any of the following priority groups: BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Colour); 2 Spirit, Transgender, Non-binary and Gender Diverse; and People with Disabilities.

To apply, please fill out this form by **April 17th, 2023 at 11:59pm PDT**:  
<https://forms.office.com/r/qsPeeRsiX7>

A PDF of the Application questions is available [HERE](#).

Please email [communications@playwrightsguild.ca](mailto:communications@playwrightsguild.ca) if you require any accessibility needs to help you apply to this program. An ASL translation of the program guidelines will be available soon.

We hope this program provides playwrights, theatre creators, and dramatic storytellers with the resources to take action, honour their value, and decide how to best protect the ownership of their artistic work.

## **Guiding Information**

*This is general information, relevant in Canada. It is meant only as a start to allow playwrights to understand relevant principles to which they are protected under the Canadian Copyright Act.*

**Legal Information** can be given by lawyers at webinars and group sessions. Such information is general and meant to help you understand basic legal concepts. They can provide generic examples that assist in understanding.

**Legal Advice** cannot be given by lawyers in group settings. It is specific to a lawyer/client relationship. It will help address specific questions and approaches. Clients decide which steps they want to take and can be guided through the entire process by their lawyer.

**Copyright** is the exclusive legal right to produce, reproduce, publish, or perform an original literary, artistic, dramatic, or musical work. For copyright to apply, it must be an original work and be fixed (a script, not an idea). Your copyright exists in Canada exists during your lifetime and for 70 years following your death. In the case of co-creators, the copyright exists for the 70 years following the death of the last surviving creator. It gives

you control over the value of your work: how it is used, by whom, and on what terms. If there are co-creators, there will be joint ownership, and therefore decision-making, over copyright. You can determine a legal agreement with co-creators through legal advice and signed documents. If you have not entered into an agreement with a publisher, Playwrights Guild of Canada can assist you in getting an ISBN for your work. You may choose to register your work with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office. Playwrights can designate an agent or estate manager to make copyright decisions on their behalf, during their lifetime and beyond.

**Production Rights** entitle playwrights to receive royalty payments related to performances of their play.

**Reproduction Rights** entitle playwrights to receive royalty payments related to the sale of their script. If you have entered into a publishing agreement, the publisher will have an affiliated copyright over the specific print edition and its reproduction rights.

**Moral Rights** are the reflection of your personality in your work. Artists always retain moral rights. They may be waived but they cannot be assigned to someone else. Moral rights include:

- The right to protect your artwork against distortion, alteration, or mutilation in a way which prejudices your reputation
- The right to associate your name as the author of your work or remain anonymous if you choose
- The right to protect your image from association with a cause, a product, service, or institution to which you are personally opposed.

**Estate Planning** means creating a plan to protect your assets upon your passing and distributing them according to your wishes. A will is one part of that plan. Literary Estate Planning is also part of that plan.

A **Literary Estate** plan includes designating someone who will make copyright decisions and the decision of who will receive royalty payments for the 70 years that your work exists under copyright protection beyond your death. You are free to assign different people to different roles or combine them.

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