



ONTARIO

1. PROFILE

Ontario, situated in the center of Canada, occupies more than half a million square miles. Quebec borders the province to the east, and New York State, the Great Lakes, Michigan and Minnesota line the southern edge. The province of Manitoba cuts its western border, and the Hudson Bay its northern. Ontario's sheer size holds an incredible diversity of landscapes and locations: rolling English countryside, giant office towers, wooden forts, moon rock, balmy beaches, open-air markets, streetcars, castles, cathedrals, husky dogs and, of course, the Mounties. Toronto, the capital, is located on a plain which slopes upward from Lake Ontario to a 75' high bluff and climbs further to altitudes of up to 675' above the lake. Toronto is an important post-production center for the film and television industries. The third largest production facility in North America, it is less than 1½ hours (by air) from New York City, Boston, Chicago and Pittsburgh—and just 5 hours from Los Angeles.

Temperatures can vary greatly in this vast province: winter temperatures in Toronto average 20°F, and 1°F in Kenora (1,000 miles northwest). Toronto summers climb to a balmy 80°F, and a comfortable 67°F in Kenora. Precipitation totals for Toronto an average 31 inches.

2. ONTARIO FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

All services of the marketing branch of the Ontario Film Development Corporation are free-of-charge. It can provide:

A. Location Scouting: After the script, treatment or detailed location breakdown are evaluated, possible locations are explored and photographed by a location manager. The Film/Video Location Library maintains photographs of numerous sites.

B. Local Production Resources: The Office can suggest facilities, services, production personnel, and unions and guilds.

C. Liaison: The Office will serve as liaison to other government agencies (including immigration authorities).

D. General Assistance: The Office will provide assistance throughout all stages of production.

For further information contact:

Ontario Media Development Corp.

South Tower #501
175 Bloor St. E.
Toronto ON M4W 3R8
CANADA
Tel: (416) 314-6858
Website: www.omdc.on.ca

Additional contacts of regional and city film commissions may be found in this section under "Locations of Special Interest" and in the *DIRECTORY SECTION* under "COMMISSIONS".

3. LOCATIONS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

A. Toronto: Widely-recognized as having the largest per capita movie-going population in North America, Toronto is a major launching pad for most theatrical films. The annual *Festival of Festivals*, drawing filmgoers and filmmakers from around the world, is an important barometer of public reaction to new releases.

(1) Production Background: The provincial capital of Ontario, Toronto has become the largest city in Canada, and the economic and cultural center of the country. Film and television production are a major industry, and have established Toronto as the third largest production center in North America. Four Canadian television networks, three cable channels, and all national production union and guilds are headquartered here. Since 1979, over 220 theatrical and television features have been shot in part or totally in Toronto. Roughly one in four made-for-cable movies are shot here.

Toronto offers more than 20 production studios with a combined total of just under one-third of a million square feet of space, plus large backlot and underwater tank facilities. Its film labs print everything from production dailies to release prints for major distributors. State-of-the-art post-production facilities include the latest editing, optical effects, motion-control and computer graphics systems. Toronto is also a major center of development in telecommunications and technology, with the 70mm *Imax* and *Ommimax* film systems and the "colorization" process among its most notable advances. Satellite uplinks and downlinks can be arranged by a phone call. Quite simply, the city can serve film and television production superbly, with experienced and highly-trained professionals and top-notch production facilities.

(2) Locations: Clean and safe, with a diverse population in excess of two million, Toronto is a cosmopolitan city whose many European and Asian communities enhance the city's colonial roots. Victorian neighborhoods, futuristic architecture, a fanciful castle, tree-lined residential streets, a downtown buzzing with neon and nightlife, modern industrial complexes, 19th-century factories, old world and oriental markets, an international port, an ivy-league university, chic shopping districts, and the tallest, free-standing structure in the world, give producers great flexibility. All of these locations are within an hour of picturesque farmland, lakeland, or wilderness.

(3) Toronto Film & TV Office: Acts as a general resource center for both local and incoming productions, assists in finding suitable locations, producing contacts, and obtaining approvals and free location shooting permits for streets, parks, and properties. Through the Office, streets can be closed and arrangements made for helicopter shots. Free equipment that is provided can range from garbage compactors to fire reels. Only out-of-pocket overtime charges will be passed on where city crews are requested. Coordination of police assistance is also managed by the staff.

The only requirement for obtaining permissions is the provision to the Toronto Film & TV Office of general comprehensive public liability insurance with appropriate coverage naming the Corporation of the City of Toronto for the purposes of filming. The Office has contacts in all civic departments and public agencies, and in regional, provincial, and federal levels of government.

For further information contact:

Toronto Film & TV Office

City Hall, Main FL., Rotunda N.
100 Queen St. W.
Toronto ON M5H 2N2
CANADA
Tel: (416) 392-7570
Website: www.toronto.ca/tfto

B. Southwestern Ontario: Warm, lush garden land between *Lake Huron* and *Lake Erie*. Graceful towns, peaceful villages.

C. Festival Country: An hour west and south of Toronto, the scene of the *Stratford* and *Shaw Festivals*. The huge smokestacks of *Hamilton Steel*, *Mennonite* traditions and cottage country.

D. Niagara Falls: The Falls are the center of a beautiful, 2,800-acre park that runs along the length of the *Niagara River*. The scenic *Niagara Parkway* follows the shoreline of the *Niagara River*.

Two high towers overlooking the Falls: *CP Hotel's Skylon* (775') and the *Panasonic Center* (665'). The *Horseshoe Falls* (176') have a crestline 2,200' long. Here, the *Table Rock Scenic Tunnels* boast 650' of underground rock tunnels that lead to 3 separate views of the Falls. In winter, the Falls' spray blankets the nearby trees, rocks, and lamp posts, forming unique frozen shapes. The famous *Niagara "ice-bridge"* usually forms in the Gorge below the cataracts in early January.