

COVID-19 UPDATE

Up to date as of January 25th, 2022

The 5th wave of the COVID-19 pandemic is spreading quicker than any of us had imagined, and new restrictions also bring new questions. The Quebec Drama Federation has been in communication with the Ministry of Culture and Communications, as well as other arts service organizations in order to share this information with you, our community.

Venues & Rehearsals (Updated on Jan. 25th)

- Venues will be able to reopen on Monday, the 7th of February.
- Capacity is capped to 50%, with a max of 500 spectators.
- Theatres set up the 50% according to their own view of what is safest in their venue. Not according to a single rule, not 2m, not 1-seat. Choose your own adventure.
- No bubble-checks, so no need to verify if all ticket holders sitting together are in the same household. But you can if you want, of course. Figure out your own distancing models to make your venue as safe as possible.
- Audiences need to be adequately vaccinated to enter a venue. Until further notice, 2 doses is considered “adequate protection”.
- Audiences will need to wear a mask at all times, even while seated.
- Bars will not be allowed to serve alcoholic beverages within venues at this time.
- Dinner-theatres/Cabaret theatre is back on. 50% capacity for up to 500 people. Tables max of 4 people/2 bubbles. No consumption of alcohol.
- Open-air presentations are allowed for up to 1000 people. Need to be distanced, masks are recommended but not required.
- The box office subsidy will stay in place until it is no longer needed... but:
- 1 month of grace after this re-opening for the measure. 100% up to March 7th. As had been promised, this buffer means theatre are not absolutely required to be open on February 7th but have a month to prepare for audiences even after being allowed to open.

General (Updated On Jan. 25th)

- **Written CNESST update is experiencing a delay.**
- **Public Health is rolling out a schedule to the Ministry of Culture and Communications, but would not commit to a 3-month roadmap due to fear of uncertainty.**
- **The QDF was invited to a consultation series hosted by the MCC last week in which organization, venues, diffusers, and more were given the chance to provide feedback and demonstrate their needs from the Ministry concerning reopening plans and sanitary measure implementation.**

General (Updated On Jan. 17th)

- **Under the “Economic sectors covered by a COVID-19 closure order”, it is possible to use a rented rehearsal hall “for a production, audiovisual filming or for the recording of a performance (without an audience)”. Therefore, rehearsals for production are an exception.**
 - **No change has been made to sanitary standards for rehearsals since these new measures have been put into place, caution is still heavily implored. The MCC has shared information about an increase in COVID cases on film sets, which have typically managed to keep contagion down with their measures. The Omicron variant is contagious in a way unseen to this pandemic in the past. Should your rehearsal continue, we continue to recommend strict social distancing, ventilation, mask wearing, sanitation, and all other measures.**

Benefits and Funding - Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit

As Quebec is in another lockdown, many employed and self-employed individuals who can demonstrate a loss of at least 50% of their income are eligible for The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit (CWLB).

This benefit:

- Provides \$300 per week (\$270 after taxes withheld) to supplement lost wages.
- Is in addition to the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit and the Canada Recovery Caregivers Benefit, both of which remain available.
- Currently covers a period from December 19th 2021 to February 12, 2022.

More information on the [Canada Workers' Lockdown Benefit](#).

Benefits and Funding - CALQ Box Office Subsidy

- We'd like to remind those who are eligible that CALQ's box office subsidy is still available, and is anticipated to be open until at least March 31st, 2022, with noted support to eligible productions cancelled in January 2022.
 - For more information: [Mesure Particulière À La Diffusion De Spectacles Québécois - Hiver 2022](#) (External link, French only)

Benefits and Funding - CALQ Fonds de Soutien

- The Conseil des Arts et des lettres du Québec, in association with the Fondation des Artists, is offering a Fund for Psychosocial Support to artists and cultural workers who demonstrate need. Services include but are not limited to: Social work, mediation, therapy, financial planning, legal work, etc.
 - For more Information: [Fonds de Soutien - CALQ](#) (external, French only)

Support

If you or someone you know is struggling, please do not hesitate to Contact:

- **McGill Psychoeducational & Counselling Clinic - 514-398-4641**
- **Hope For Wellness Help Line - 1-855-242-3310 - Offered in English/French, and upon request: Cree, Ojibway, or Inuktitut.**
- **Kids Help Phone - 1-800-668-6868 - Text: 686868**
- **The Open Center**
- **Canada Suicide Prevention Service - 1-833-456-4566 or 1-866-APPELLE (277-3553)**
 - **Suicide Action Montreal: 514-723-4000**

The above information has been provided by the office of the Minister of Culture and Communications of Quebec, CALQ and the Government of Canada.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Rahul Gandhi at

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or

Sign up for Membership Mondays with Anna Burkholder

quebecdrama.org/membershipmondays