



DANCER TRAINING SUPPORT PROGRAM

2011-2012 POLICY

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAM

The *Dancer Training Support Program* is an indispensable tool for dancers whose economic conditions are as fragile as they were when the program was created in 1993. Each year, the Program assists dancers by subsidizing the cost of regular training in various techniques and throughout the year. This training is essential to the profession, whether the dancer is in period of rehearsal, show, without employment or in a period of social assistance. This support takes the form of a financial aid paid directly to the dancers upon presentation of their training receipts.

The objectives of the program are the following: to value the profession of dancing; to improve the dancer's socioeconomic status; to maintain optimal employability conditions; to improve and maintain complete fitness and to reduce the risk of injuries.

The 2011-2012 Policy was updated by a committee of professional dancers composed of Johanna Bienaise, Nathalie Blanchet, Catherine Viau and Jamie Wright. It was unanimously adopted by the RQD Board of Directors at the May 19, 2011 meeting.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.1. PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBER

To be eligible, the professional individual member must:

- › **Be a member of the RQD for at least four months** (this applies only in the first year of membership);
- › **Be active as a dancer and have a minimum of eight paid performances¹ in Quebec or in Canada in a professional context², over a period of two years.** Each dancer must fill out a registration form and attach copies of contracts or letters of agreement as evidence. Evening programs, posters, tour calendars, websites, and invoices are not considered eligible documentation.

If a dancer does not have a minimum of eight performances, the RQD may consider other paid professional activities accomplished as a dancer, such as the participation in a research or creative process, (a up-to-date CV and copies of contracts must be attached). These activities must total a minimum of 300 paid work hours over two years, and have taken place in a context of research and creation.

Dancers who receive support for their training on a regular basis from their employer (financial support or training classes) are eligible to the Program only during periods of unemployment (upon presentation of an official letter from the employer indicating the break periods or periods on social assistance).

¹ Corporate events and activities that took place in an academic, amateur or semi-professional context will not be recognized in a calculation of the eight performances.

² The professional context refers to organisations primarily involved in creation or presentation. It can include dance companies or collectives, theatres or venues recognized by peers. Included in this definition are events where the dancers are chosen by other dance professionals.

Dancers who have been inactive over a period of two years because of a prolonged work break (pregnancy, maternity leave, injury, accident or illness) are eligible, after evaluation (attach an up-to-date CV, a medical certificate, a birth certificate or other pertinent documentation).

2.2. PROFESSIONAL CORPORATE MEMBER

To be eligible, the professional corporate member must:

- › Be one of the two RQD member delegates;
- › Be active as a dancer/interpreter, and fulfil the requirements of article 2.1

2.3. ASSOCIATE MEMBER

To be eligible, the associate member must:

- › Have completed, within the last three years (2009, 2010 or 2011), an initial training in dance in an superior level training institution or in a training considered equivalent (attach copy of diploma or Attestation of Collegial Studies (ACS) or, for an equivalent training, a CV specifying, in a detailed manner, the courses and workshops taken). Transcripts of grades are not eligible documentation.

3. REIMBURSED TRAINING

Only classes, workshops and training memberships taken in Quebec may be reimbursed³.

- › **For the associate member:** classes in ballet, modern, contemporary and another genre of dance of choice; the following training techniques: Pilates, yoga, perffmax, gym sur table TCP, gyrokinesis/gyrotonic®; and fitness training.
- › **For the professional member:** all technical training related to dance.

All eligible dancers can obtain a Complexe Guy-Favreau YMCA card, 50% of which will be reimbursed by the Program. Under this agreement with the Guy-Favreau YMCA, a monthly card is available for \$35. In order to obtain the card, present yourself at the membership desk at the YMCA. Keep the receipt and attach it to your claim.

4. AMOUNT REIMBURSED

4.1. PROFESSIONAL MEMBER	4.2. ASSOCIATE MEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Up to \$ 7 per class. › \$ 14 for each session costing over \$ 30. › Intensive workshops and memberships costing less than \$ 300 and giving access to an unlimited number of classes : 50 % of the cost. › Intensive workshops and memberships costing more than \$ 300 and giving access to an unlimited number of classes : 40 % of the cost. › Up to a maximum of \$ 600 per dancer per year according to the availabilities of funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Up to \$ 7 per class. › Intensive workshops and memberships costing less than \$ 300 and giving access to an unlimited number of classes : 50 % of the cost. › Intensive workshops and memberships costing more than \$ 300 and giving access to an unlimited number of classes : 40 % of the cost. › Up to a maximum of \$ 500 per dancer per year according to the availabilities of funds.

³ However, members whose permanent home is situated in Gatineau can obtain a financial support for classes and workshops taken in Ottawa.

5. REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURE

- › Eligibility to the Program takes effect on the date of reception of the membership renewal form, or, in the case of the initial membership, four months after the reception of the RQD membership form.
- › **Each member must have renewed their membership by July 1st, 2011 in order to avoid any interruption in the processing of claims.** For example, if you wait until August 1st, 2011 to renew your RQD membership, the classes, workshops and gym or yoga memberships bought between July 1st and 31st, 2011 will not be reimbursed.
- › To be eligible, each participant must submit, in due form, a registration form accompanied by the required documentation. After evaluation by the Professional Development Coordinator, the participant will receive a letter of acceptance to the Program and a Claim Form. To receive a reimbursement, the participant must fill out the claim form and return it to the RQD with photocopied receipts attached. A new form will be sent with each reimbursement.
- › **The participant has three months, as of the date of payment on the receipt, to make the claim.** The maximum delay in the treatment of claims is thirty business days. The RQD sends the reimbursements by mail.
- › The RQD does not write any claim cheques for under \$ 40. Claims below this amount will be dealt with at a later date, upon reception of other claims, until the total of the reimbursement reaches \$ 40 or above.
- › Dance classes and workshops financed by Emploi-Québec, Montreal region, are not reimbursed.
- › The RQD reserves the right to modify the 2011-2012 Policy at any time, according to the availability of financial resources.

6. CSST AND MCCCCF COVERAGE OF DANCERS IN THE CASE OF INJURY

Since January 2006, members admitted to the Dancers Training Support Program are covered by CSST in the case of an injury or accident which has occurred during a supervised training and while between work contracts. This is the result of an agreement between CSST and the Ministry of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women.

To learn more about the procedure to follow in the case of injury, contact Dominic Simoneau at 514 849-4003, extension 227. Your request for coverage will be treated in strict confidentiality.

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