



# Dance Training Support Program

## 1. Program description

The Dance Training Support Program plays a vital role in improving the socio-economic conditions of professional dancers, choreographers, and rehearsal directors.

Since 1994, the Program has helped active performers—and, since 2021, choreographers and rehearsal directors—cover part of the costs of dance training, which is a fundamental requirement for the practice of their profession. This applies whether they are in a period of rehearsal, performance [1], unemployment, or between contracts. The support is provided in the form of direct financial assistance, granted upon submission of training receipts.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- Encourage physical training efforts required to meet the demands of working as a performer, choreographer, or rehearsal director.

- Ease the financial burden of training activities for individuals practicing these professions.
- Motivate performers, choreographers, and rehearsal directors to maintain a high level of excellence and optimal employability.
- Ensure coverage for performers in the event of an injury or accident occurring during supervised training.

## 2. Eligibility Requirements

To access the Program, performers, choreographers, and rehearsal directors must:

- Be a current member in good standing of the RQD at the time of the eligibility request.\*  
*\*Please note that eligibility for the Program begins on the date the member receives confirmation by email and remains valid for 12 months.*
- Submit an eligibility request each time they renew their RQD membership, using the RQD membership form.\*\*
- Meet the admission requirements specific to their membership category (see section 2.1).
- Provide the required supporting documents through the membership form (see section 2.1).
- *Meet the eligibility criteria of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, which require that the applicant ordinarily resides in Québec and has lived there for the*

*past 12 months. If the member has been living outside Québec for two years or more, they are not eligible unless they have maintained their status as a Québec resident.*

\*Performers, choreographers, and rehearsal directors may submit an eligibility request for the Program using the membership form, including at the time of their initial application to the RQD. They may begin receiving support through the Program as soon as they are admitted.

\*\*Upon membership renewal, eligibility for the Program begins on the date the member receives confirmation of eligibility by email. Each member must renew their membership on their annual renewal date to avoid any interruption in the processing of their claims. Training expenses incurred between the expiry of membership and the renewal date are not eligible for reimbursement.

## **2.1 Admission Requirements**

### **2.1.1 Apprentice member**

Must have completed, within the past three years, either a formal post-secondary dance training program or training deemed equivalent.

**Required supporting document:** a copy of the diploma, college-level certificate of studies, or transcript confirming the completion of the program or certificate,

**OR** a [detailed training record](#) outlining the courses and internships completed.

Please note that, in accordance with RQD membership policy, an individual may hold trainee status for a maximum of four years from the date of initial membership.

**Required supporting documents:**

- A copy of the diploma, college-level certificate of studies, or transcript confirming the completion of the diploma or certificate,

**OR**

- A detailed training record outlining the courses and internships completed as part of training deemed equivalent.

**2.1.2 Individual or Professional Corporate Member**

- Have accumulated, over the past three years, a minimum of eight paid professional dance performances, including cancelled contracts [2],

**OR**

- Have accumulated, over the past three years, at least 200 hours of paid work as a performer, choreographer, or rehearsal director in dance, within a context of research, creation, or remounting that did not result in public performances.

### **Required supporting documents:**

- Copies of signed letters of agreement or contracts. [See a [Paid service statement template](#).] Proofs of intent to engage (such as email exchanges) are accepted on the same basis as the usual proofs of engagement (contracts, letters of agreement).

### **3. Special cases**

An individual or professional corporate member who regularly receives training support from their employer (financial assistance or classes) is eligible for the Program and may request reimbursement for training activities not covered by their employer.

### **Required supporting documents:**

- A signed contract or a statement from the employer specifying the covered training sessions or detailed financial support.

An individual or professional corporate member who is inactive—due, for example, to an extended work stoppage—may be eligible for the Program following a case-by-case assessment.

## **4. Types of Reimbursable Training**

The Program covers physical training related to the professional practice of dance.

Eligible for reimbursement are classes, workshops, subscriptions, and training programs attended in person, only within Québec. The only exceptions are:

- Dancers residing in Gatineau may receive financial support for dance classes and workshops attended in Ottawa.
- Reimbursement is possible for training (online or in person) in dance techniques or styles not currently offered in Québec.

*Classes, workshops, or subscriptions that are already subsidized by a government body are not eligible for reimbursement.*

*No voluntary contributions paid in addition to or instead of the required training fees will be reimbursed.*

## 5. Reimbursable Amounts

Apprentice Member	Individual Member or Professional Corporate
<p>Classes, workshops, and subscriptions:</p> <p>40% of the cost (before taxes).</p>	<p>Classes, workshops, and subscriptions:</p> <p>40% of the cost (before taxes).</p>

up to a maximum of \$250 per month and up to a maximum of \$300 per year\*, subject to the availability of Program funds.

up to a maximum of \$250 per month and up to a maximum of \$500 per year\*, subject to the availability of Program funds.

\* The new annual maximums will take effect as of July 1, 2025. Consequently, individuals who have already received reimbursements during the previous cycle (2024–2025) will have their maximum reduced proportionally to the amounts received in 2024–2025, until they renew their RQD membership and their admission to the Program is confirmed.

The RQD reserves the right to adjust reimbursement rates during the year depending on available financial resources.

## **6. Reimbursement Procedures**

### **6.1 Allocation of the Fund**

The Program's budget is divided on a monthly basis.

Proportionally to our membership, 80% of the fund is allocated to individual and professional corporate members, and 20% to individual trainee members.

**The RQD does not guarantee that all members admitted to the Program will receive reimbursement or be granted the maximum allowable amount each year.**

## **6.2 Processing of Requests**

The reimbursement application period is set for the first 14 days of each month.

The order in which requests are processed is determined as follows:

1. A draw among applicants who have not yet received a first reimbursement during their membership year.
2. A draw among the remaining applications.

Reimbursements are issued no later than one month after the 14-day application period closes.

## **6.3 Receipt Eligibility**

- Receipts must include the following information:
  - Your name;
  - Date of payment;

- Name of the training facility or instructor;
  - Type of training.
- Receipts must be official, detailed, and validated by the organization or professional providing the service.
  - Fees for physical condition assessments, studio rentals, or training equipment are not reimbursable.
  - Any eligible expense may be claimed within 12 months of the member's enrollment in the Program.
  - Please note that debit or credit card statements are not accepted as valid receipts.

## 6.4 The Claims Process

RQD	Member
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The claim form opens for the application period on the first business day of the current month.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Complete the <u>Claim form</u> in the member area.</li> <li>● Ensure that receipts are detailed and compliant. Please note that debit or credit card statements are not accepted.</li> <li>● Verify that the payment date for the</li> </ul>

- The form will close at the end of the 14th day of the application period for the current month.

activity falls within your membership year.

- Submit a voided check with the claim form only upon your first claim to the Program or if your financial institution has changed.

\*If a claim could not be submitted or was denied due to exhausted funds, it may be resubmitted until the member's eligibility in the Program expires.

## 6.4 Claims Processing

The RQD sends a confirmation email and processes reimbursements via direct deposit no later than 30 days after the application period closes.

As of June 30, if all funds have not been distributed, any remaining balance will be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

## 7. CNESST Coverage in Case of Injury During Training

Under the [Regulation respecting the implementation of the Agreement on the professional dance training program](#), established by the Occupational Health and Safety

Act and adopted in 2006, performers admitted to the Dance Training Support Program are automatically covered by the CNESST in the event of an injury occurring during training that is not part of an employment contract. Certain conditions apply.

## **7.1 CNESST Coverage Conditions**

CNESST coverage under the Dance Training Support Program applies only to performers. It is not available to choreographers or rehearsal directors.

To be eligible for coverage, performers must be members of the RQD and admitted to the Dance Training Support Program after submitting an application via the [RQD membership form](#) (see section 2 – Eligibility Requirements).

The training sessions during which performers are covered must meet the following strict conditions:

- Specialized dance training
- Supervised training
- In-person training taking place on Québec soil

*Please note:* training attended online or in person outside Québec is not covered.

## **7.2 What to Do in Case of Injury**

A dancer who is injured during training must:

1. Inform the person supervising their class or training session and designate them as a witness.

2. Consult a physician within 48 hours of the incident. The physician must provide a CNESST-identified medical certificate and a treatment prescription.
3. Notify the RQD by email at [info@quebecdanse.org](mailto:info@quebecdanse.org) to open a CNESST file.

The policy for the RQD's Training Support Program was unanimously adopted by the RQD Board of Directors on June 16, 2025.

The Dance Training Support Program receives financial support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Montreal Arts Council, and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.



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*[1]A performance is considered professional when it is carried out by artists recognized as professionals by their peers, within an event also recognized as professional. [2] In calculating the eight (8) dance performances required, the RQD does not count those performed in an academic or amateur context.*

