

Suggested Film Classifications for Banff Film Festival – Equivalence Table

The table below includes the film classifications under which the films for the Banff Mountain Film Festival have been rated (all are either G or PG) and the columns to the right indicate a suggested equivalent BBFC rating. Please see Appendix C for more info about the Canadian classification ratings.

As language is the only thing that anyone may find offensive in the films (there is no discrimination, drugs, horror, violence, etc) apart from the distant picture of a man's bottom in one of the films then I have only included reference to bad language in the BBFC summary.

Table 1 – Canadian (British Columbia) and BBFC Film Classifications

| British Columbia Classification | Suggested Equivalent BBFC ratings | |
|--|---|--|
| Rating G - Suitable for viewing by persons of all ages. Occasional violence, swearing and coarse language, and the most innocent of sexually suggestive scenes and nudity, are permitted in this category. | Rating U - Suitable for all - Language - Infrequent use only of very mild bad language. | Rating PG - General viewing, but some scenes may be unsuitable for young children Language - Mild bad language only. |
| Rating PG - Parental guidance advised. Theme or content may not be suitable for all children although there is no age restriction. Motion pictures in this category may contain less subtle sexually suggestive scenes and nudity and a more realistic portrayal of violence than in the General category; coarse language may occur more often than in the General category. | Rating PG - General viewing, but some scenes may be unsuitable for young children Language - Mild bad language only. | Rating 12+ - These categories are awarded where the material is suitable, in general, only for those aged 12 and over. Moderate language is allowed. The use of strong language (for example, 'f*&k') must be infrequent. |

In summary, the rating G in the British Columbia (Canada) classification corresponds to either U or PG under the BBFC (mostly U).

The rating PG in British Columbia corresponds to either PG or 12+ under the BBFC (generally PG although conservatively some may be considered 12+).

Film Classification Ratings from the Consumer Protection BC (Canada) Website

Categories and Advisories

Categories

The *Motion Picture Act* Regulations define 6 unique classification categories used for film classification in British Columbia.

General



Suitable for viewing by persons of all ages. Occasional violence, swearing and coarse language, and the most innocent of sexually suggestive scenes and nudity, are permitted in this category.

Parental Guidance



Parental guidance advised. Theme or content may not be suitable for all children although there is no age restriction. Motion pictures in this category may contain less subtle sexually suggestive scenes and nudity and a more realistic portrayal of violence than in the General category; coarse language may occur more often than in the General category.

14 Accompaniment



Suitable for persons 14 years of age or older. Persons under 14 years of age must view these motion pictures accompanied by an adult. Motion pictures in this category may contain violence, coarse language or sexually suggestive scenes, or any combination of them.

18 Accompaniment



Persons under 18 years of age must view these motion pictures accompanied by an adult. Motion pictures in this category will contain horror, explicit violence, frequent coarse language or scenes that are more sexually suggestive than in the 14A category, or any combination of them.

Restricted



Restricted to persons 18 years of age and over. Persons under 18 years of age are not permitted to attend under any circumstances. These motion pictures are "adult motion pictures", as defined in the Act, and may contain explicit sexual scenes, violence or scenes referred to in Section 5(3) of the Act, or any combination of them. The director will assign this classification to motion pictures if the director considers that the theme, subject matter or plot of the adult motion picture is artistic, historical, political, educational or scientific.


Adult





Restricted to persons 18 years of age and over. Persons under 18 years of age are not permitted to attend under any circumstances. These motion pictures are "adult motion pictures", as defined in the Act, and may contain explicit sexual scenes or scenes of brutality or torture to persons or animals, or any combination of them, that are portrayed in a realistic and explicit manner; however, the scenes would, in the director's opinion, be tolerable to the community.

Trailers

Consumer Protection BC uses 3 designations for trailers.

 Approved for exhibition with all films.

 Approved for exhibition with films classified as 14A or 18A.

 Approved for exhibition with films classified as Restricted or Adult.

Advisories

Advisories are short information pieces designed to provide the public with information regarding film content. The following is a list of advisories that have been recently applied to films.

Bullying. Anti-social behaviour (particularly in a school environment) in which a character intimidates, torments or physically harms another person.

Coarse Language. Dialogue using profanity (i.e. "four letter" words), blasphemy, disparaging racial or sexual orientation remarks. May include sexual language. The context and frequency of the dialogue is considered.

Crude Content. Content or humour that is primitive, gross or vulgar. For example, scenarios involving bodily fluids.

Domestic Violence. Violence that is depicted within a home involving characters in the same family (e.g. spousal or child abuse).

Drug Use. The injection, consumption or inhalation of illegal narcotics.

Explicit Sexual Scenes. Scenes that depict a sexual act, the occurrence of which is actually visible by the viewer. For example, the viewer will be able to clearly see a genital-to-genital connection. Limited to Restricted and Adult rated films.

Explicit Violence. Violence that is expressly conveyed, leaving nothing merely implied, and depicted in detail. It may be characterized by extreme brutality, torture, and extreme bloodletting, tissue damage, dismemberment and/or decapitation.

Horror. Gory and grotesque depictions of frequent murders and tortures; intense or suspenseful psychological theme; prolonged and graphic focus on bloodletting/tissue damage/mutilated bodies. Relevant to 18A films.

May Frighten Young Children. Scenes that may be shocking or alarming to a person under the approximate age of eight.

Nudity. The appearance of any of the following:

- post-pubescent human genitals;
- post-pubescent human buttocks; or
- post-pubescent human female nipple(s).

Sexual Content. Dialogue, props, costumes, situations or other depictions that are overtly sexual.

Sexual Language. Dialogue that does not necessarily include coarse language, but describes or refers to sexual activity.

Sexually Suggestive Scenes. Scenes in a motion picture that depict

- sexual activity other than explicit sexual scenes (i.e. genital connections will not be visible to the viewer); or

- a sexual act that is not actually visible to the viewer, but the scene and the context in which it appears are intended to suggest that a sexual act is or may be occurring. For example, two bodies moving under blankets while the bed is rocking.

Sexual Violence. Physically coercive sexual activity.

Violence. Behavioural acts with evidence/indication of harm or potential for harm. This may include armed combat, natural disasters, accidents, hand-to-hand combat, use of weapons, torture and violent sports.

The following is a list of other advisories that have been recently applied to films.

- Scenes of genocide;
- Sexually suggestive scenes involving minors;
- Theme of child abuse; and
- Theme of suicide.