

Video Editor

Cut raw footage into something that holds attention. The last person who gets to decide what the story is.

TYPICAL PAY**\$72,000**

a year, full time

PAY RANGE**\$42k to \$104k**

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY**2 to 4 years**

after high school

DEMAND**Good**

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED**No**

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK**Post-production houses,
broadcasters, agencies, streamin...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
Media arts and English. Edit anything: school sport, your friends' music, your own shorts.
- 2 Training or self-teaching** 0 to 2 years
A 2-year college post-production diploma, a one-year film school, or free tutorials plus relentless practice.
- 3 Build a reel** 3 to 12 months
Two to four minutes of your best cuts, plus one or two full pieces. This is the hiring decision.
- 4 Assistant editor** 1 to 3 years
Media management, syncing, conforming and delivery on a real production. You learn workflow properly here.
- 5 Editor** Year 3 to 6
Cutting scenes yourself, then whole episodes or films, or leading an in-house team.

Pros and cons

- + You can learn it yourself with free tools and a laptop
- + Genuine remote work, unlike most screen jobs
- + Huge demand from brands, broadcasters and creators
- Long sedentary hours in a dark room
- Endless revisions from people who cannot explain what they want
- The low end is crowded and AI tools are speeding up rough cuts

Optional boosts

Colour grading. Motion graphics. Sound editing. VFX (visual effects) clean-up.

Good to know

Editors have their own national body

Canadian Cinema Editors is a bilingual non-profit for post-production people across the country. It runs a mentorship program, an annual conference and awards for editing specifically.

The assistant does the invisible work

On a feature, the assistant editor may handle tens of thousands of files, keeping every take findable. If that job is done badly, the editor cannot work at all.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Video Editor in Canada, wages (updated November 2025)

Canadian Cinema Editors

IATSE Local 873, Toronto motion picture technicians

Vancouver Film School: Film Production program

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/video-editor>



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