



For Immediate Release

THE NATION'S CAPITAL TO HOST THE 2009 GENIE AWARDS

(Ottawa, ON) January 14, 2009 - The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television (ACCT) along with broadcast partner, Canwest, and the National Capital Commission (NCC), today announced that Ottawa, Canada's capital, will host **The Genie Awards** to be held April 4, 2009. The 29th Annual Genie Awards will celebrate productions from Canada's best and brightest in the film industry and will be held at the Canada Aviation Museum, one of the country's most visually stunning landmarks, and broadcast on Global Television, Saturday, April 4th (time tbd).

"The Genie Awards have grown and matured into a true national celebration," said Sara Morton, CEO of the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television. "So it's fitting that Ottawa, the nation's capital, should host our celebration of Canada's finest films and filmmakers."

"The National Capital Commission strives to create a Capital Region that is a source of pride for Canadians. This event is a perfect opportunity to celebrate excellence in Canadian cinema in the nation's Capital," said Marie Lemay, Chief Executive Officer of the National Capital Commission. "Over the coming months, the support and contributions of numerous public and private sector partners will help ensure that this event will shine a spotlight on the region and provide a lens through which the best image makers in Canada, and all Canadians can view their Capital," added Ms. Lemay, noting that this will be the first time the Genie Awards will be held in Canada's capital.

The NCC has worked since 1899 to make the Capital an expression of the Canadian identity. Thanks to the steady, persistent and focused efforts of generation after generation of planners and landscape architects, Canada's Capital is today a model of unspoiled shorelines, scenic parkways and boulevards, preserved heritage, monuments and expansive parks. Just as importantly, the Capital has become a place for national encounters, commemorations, learning and celebrations such as the Genie Awards.

"Canwest is honoured to be returning as the broadcast partner for this year's ceremony," said Christine Shipton, Senior Vice President of the Drama and Factual Content, Canwest Broadcasting. "We have a long and rich tradition of supporting and celebrating Canadian production and this partnership allows all of us to point the much deserved spotlight on our homegrown visionaries."

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About the ACCT

The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television is a national, non-profit, professional association dedicated to the promotion, recognition and celebration of exceptional achievements in the Canadian film and television industries. Created in 1979, and today unifying industry professionals across Canada, the Academy is a vital and integral force in the industry.

About Canwest Broadcasting

Canwest Broadcasting operates two conventional television networks, Global Television and E!, and eighteen of the country's most popular specialty channels, including HGTV, Mystery TV, National Geographic Channel, Showcase, Slice™ and TVtropolis. Canwest Broadcasting is a division of Canwest Media Inc.

About Canwest Media Inc.

Canwest Media Inc. is a subsidiary of Canwest Global Communications Corp. (www.canwest.com; TSX: CGS and CGS.A).

An international media company, Canwest is Canada's largest publisher of paid English language daily newspapers and owns, operates and/or holds substantial interests in conventional television, out-of-home advertising, specialty cable channels, websites and radio stations in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Turkey, Indonesia, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

About the National Capital Commission

For further information about the National Capital Commission, members of the public can contact the NCC at 613-239-5555, 1-800-704-8227 or visit the website at www.canadacapital.gc.ca. TTY (text telephone for the hearing impaired) is available at 613-239-5090 or toll-free at 1-866-661-3530.

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