



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NEW YEAR LAUNCH FOR BRAND NEW TV SERIES:
Blackstone Begins January 2011**

Edmonton AB (December 20, 2010) -- **Prairie Dog Film + Television** is pleased to announce the premiere of the original dramatic series ***Blackstone*** on two national networks in the New Year:

**APTN weekly broadcasts begin
Tuesday, January 25, 9 p.m. EST (check local listings)**

**Showcase weekly broadcasts begin
Friday, January 28, 11 p.m. EST**

www.blackstonetheseries.com

ABOUT *BLACKSTONE*

Intense, compelling and confrontational, *Blackstone* is an unmuted exploration of First Nations' power and politics, unfolding over nine one-hour episodes. This raw, authentic drama tells the story of the fictional Blackstone First Nation, suffering disintegration by its own hand – the result of the corruption of its Chief and Council. From within the community, a new generation of leaders rise up and fight to create lasting and substantial change.

"*Blackstone* is relevant and relational in an Aboriginal story world, with universal themes and conflicts that are not only relatable to some First Nations out there today, but also to the world of politics and power in general," said Ron E. Scott, who created, wrote, directed and executive produced the series.

An uncompromising story told from an Aboriginal point of view, *Blackstone* is in sharp contrast to sympathetic stories about First Nations' people being victimized by outside forces. While the dramatization can be dark and all too real, *Blackstone* is foremost a story of hope and reconciliation in its portrayal of Native people fighting for a better life in their community.

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

Blackstone stars the who's who of Aboriginal talent including **Carmen Moore, Eric Schweig, Michelle Thrush, Nathaniel Arcand, Roseanne Supernault** and **Gordon Tootoosis**.

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The series is produced by Edmonton's Prairie Dog Film + Television, with Ron E. Scott as executive producer, writer and director, **Jesse Szymanski** as producer, **Damon Vignale** as producer and writer, and **Gil Cardinal** as writer. *Blackstone* was produced in association with the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, Showcase and Shaw Media; with the assistance of the Government of Alberta, Alberta Media Fund; with the participation of the Canadian Media Fund; with the assistance of the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit; and with the participation of Rogers Cable Network Fund.

Prairie Dog Film + Television: Contagiously creative, Prairie Dog Film + Television began 17 years ago as Alberta's underdog production company and risen to a position of leadership. Today, its original content impacts a global audience and its work has received praise from the worldwide entertainment industry. Founded in 1993 by Métis producer-director-writer Ron E. Scott, the company continues to exhibit that same drive, resolve and polished professionalism responsible for its initial successes. Its services are sought after for television and film production, commercial and music video projects, and live events. Having amassed an award-winning body of work that spans virtually every genre of media, the innovative Prairie Dog Film + Television team has created more than a reel of outstanding programming and trophy case for the lobby. With notoriously high creative and business standards and a tireless passion for shepherding unexpected voices and unique yet universal stories, it's created a legion of industry and audience fans who continue to rely on Prairie Dog for innovative, engaging entertainment that transcends the everyday.

APTN: September 1, 2010 marked the 11-year anniversary of the launch of the first national Aboriginal television network in the world with programming by, for and about Aboriginal Peoples to share with all Canadians and viewers around the world. APTN is available in approximately 10 million Canadian households and commercial establishments with cable, direct-to-home satellite (DTH), telco-delivered and fixed wireless television service providers. The network launched its high definition channel APTNHD in the spring of 2008. APTN does not receive government funding for operations but generates revenue through subscriber fees, advertising sales and strategic partnerships. APTN broadcasts programming with 56% offered in English, 16% in French and 28% in Aboriginal languages. www.aptn.ca

Shaw Communications: Shaw Communications Inc. is a diversified communications and media company, providing consumers with broadband cable television, High-Speed Internet, Home Phone, telecommunications services (through Shaw Business), satellite direct-to-home services (through Shaw Direct) and engaging programming content (through Shaw Media). Shaw serves 3.4 million customers, through a reliable and extensive fibre network. Shaw Media operates one of the largest conventional television networks in Canada, Global Television, and 19 specialty networks including HGTV Canada, Food Network Canada, History Television and Showcase. Shaw is traded on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges and is included in the S&P/TSX 60 Index (Symbol: TSX – SJR.B, NYSE – SJR). www.shaw.ca

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CONTACT FOR MEDIA:

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AVAILABLE FOR MEDIA:

- Media kit on DVD
- Screener copies – online or DVD
- Hi-res jpeg photos for publishing
- Interviews with cast and producers