



Government
of Alberta ■



MEDIA RELEASE

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Calgary named Host City for 2009 Gemini Awards

First time for event in Alberta

(Calgary, AB) – The Gemini Awards are landing in Calgary this November. The Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television (ACCT) along with broadcast partner, Canwest, the Government of Alberta, Tourism Calgary and Calgary Economic Development today announced Calgary, Alberta as the Host City for The Gemini Awards to be held Saturday, November 14, 2009. The Awards will be produced by Calgary-based production company Joe Media Group and broadcast nationwide on Global and Showcase.

Each year, a different city hosts the Awards. While the Geminis have been hosted by other western Canadian cities like Regina and Vancouver, this is the first time the event has been held in Alberta.

"The Geminis represent the national scope of English-language television" said Sara Morton, CEO of ACCT. "Calgary is a hotbed of film and television production and continues to attract major productions. We couldn't ask for a better setting for an event that celebrates the best and brightest in Canada's television industry."

"Come November, the eyes of the country will be on Calgary and on Alberta," said Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Alberta Culture and Community Spirit. "The Geminis will not only help to promote our province as a cultural tourism destination, but will showcase the wealth of talent and expertise of Alberta's television production community."

"It's a great opportunity for Calgary to host the 2009 Gemini Awards, in celebration of Canada's excellence in television production," said Luke Azevedo, Commissioner, Film, Television and Creative industries with Calgary Economic Development. "We look forward to welcoming our Canadian television colleagues and showcasing our city to the nation."

The Gemini Awards represents one more significant addition to Calgary's calendar of events in 2009.

"Event tourism is so important to our industry," said Marco De Iaco, Vice President of Sport, Culture and Major Events at Tourism Calgary. "When other segments of the market are hurting during these challenging economic times, major sport and cultural events can have a stabilizing effect on the industry that's pretty significant."

Canwest is broadcasting the Gemini Awards for the second year running.

"Canwest is proud to once again be the broadcast partner for the Gemini Awards," said Christine Shipton, Senior Vice President of Drama and Factual Content, Canwest Broadcasting. "We are a long-standing supporter of Canadian television and look forward to delivering to our audience a hugely entertaining show from Calgary."

The venue and broadcast timeslot for the 2009 Gemini Awards will be announced in the coming months.

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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 TVtopolis. 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, web sites and radio stations in Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Turkey, Indonesia, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

About Tourism Calgary:

Tourism Calgary is a not-for-profit, membership based organization specializing in the marketing and promotion of Calgary and area as the destination of choice for leisure and business travel. For over 50 years, Tourism Calgary has been the only organization dedicated to this purpose and has grown to include a network of almost 500 businesses.

About Calgary Economic Development:

Calgary Economic Development (CED) strives to make Calgary the undisputed choice for people and business. As Calgary's lead economic development agency, we work with businesses to facilitate growth, expedite local, national and international business investment and trade development opportunities and promote sustainable economic growth in the Calgary region. For more information on Calgary Economic Development, please visit our website at www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com

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