



BEST DRAMATIC SERIES NOMINATION FOR BLACKSTONE AT 2016 CANADIAN SCREEN AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 19, 2016 -- *Prairie Dog Film + Television* is pleased to announce that the dramatic TV series **Blackstone** has been nominated for Best Dramatic Series at the 2016 Canadian Screen Awards. This is Blackstone's third time to be nominated in this category, and its twelfth overall CSA nomination. Past CSA wins include: Best Performance by an Actress in a Continuing Leading Dramatic Role (Michelle Thrush).

"This is the highest honour in Canadian television," says Showrunner & Director Ron E. Scott. "We are humbled to share this category with the best television dramas produced in Canada and this nomination is shared with APTN and our incredible cast and crew."

The Canadian Screen Awards recognize excellence in film, television and digital media productions. The Canadian Screen Awards celebrate Canadian productions and talent who excel in front of the camera and behind-the-scenes in Canadian film, television and digital media. The 2016 Canadian Screen Award gala will be broadcast live on CBC on Sunday March 13, 2016 and will be hosted by comedian Norm MacDonald.

Blackstone Season 4 is a one hour drama that explores the raw and authentic dynamics of family, power and politics on a First Nation reserve. **Blackstone** is both a portrayal of a community plagued by corruption, violence and injustice that, although dark, is an inspiring story of the undying hope and resilience of a people fighting for a better life in the midst of adversity.

The award-winning, powerhouse cast includes: Carmen Moore, Eric Schweig, Michelle Thrush, Nathaniel Arcand, Steven Cree Molison, Tantoo Cardinal, Andrea Menard, Justin Rain, Cheri Maracle, Jessica Matten, Bernard Starlight and Ray G. Thunderchild with appearances by Jennifer Podemski, Garry Chalk, Glen Gould and John Cassini.

Blackstone is produced by *Prairie Dog Film + Television*, with Ron E. Scott as Executive Producer, Writer & Director, Jesse Szymanski as Co-Executive Producer, and Damon Vignale as Writer/Producer. The series currently broadcasts in Canada on APTN, in the United States on Hulu and HuluPlus, in New Zealand on Maori Television, and in Australia on SBS/NITV. **Blackstone** has been nominated for 86 awards, including Best Dramatic Series, and Best Dramatic Writing at the CSA's.

Blackstone is produced in association with Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN), the Canada Media Fund, with the assistance of the Government of Alberta, Alberta Media Fund, with the participation of Rogers Cable Network Fund, and with the assistance of the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit. www.blackstonetheseries.com

BLACKSTONE

ABOUT PRAIRIE DOG FILM + TELEVISION

Prairie Dog Film + Television is an award winning dramatic production company dedicated to scripted television series production. Founded by Showrunner Ron E. Scott in 1993, the company has developed a reputable pedigree for high quality, relevant projects that depict unique stories with universal themes.

The company has garnered international media attention and been recognized with over 100 award nominations and wins from such prestigious organizations as the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television, as well as a win for Best Dramatic Television Series for the revolutionary series **Blackstone** at the 2012 LEO Awards.

With over 190 episodes of television produced, Prairie Dog's programs have aired on major networks across North America (APTN, ABC, CBC, CBC Bold, City TV, CTV, Global, Halogen, ION, Hulu, & Showcase) as well as international markets including the U.S., New Zealand, Australia, China, Europe and South Africa.

ABOUT APTN

September 1, 2014, marked the 15-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 11 million Canadian households and commercial establishments with cable, direct-to-home satellite, telco-delivered and fixed wireless television service providers. The network launched its high definition channel, APTN HD, 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. For program schedule or for more information, please contact APTN at (204) 947-9331 or toll-free at 1-888-278-8862 (Canada), or visit the website at www.aptn.ca

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