

BLACKSTONE

BLACKSTONE, THE CRITICALLY- ACCLAIMED CANADIAN PRIMETIME DRAMA, STARTS PRODUCTION ON SEASON FIVE

- A Prairie Dog Film + Television Production -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Edmonton. April 20, 2015 – Prairie Dog Film + Television announces that principle photography starts this week on season five of the hit dramatic television series **Blackstone**. This authentic series continues to rip stories from the headlines and explore substantial issues such as the missing and murdered aboriginal women epidemic and the alarming number of child deaths in foster care, many of which are indigenous. The series shoots in Edmonton and the surrounding area until June 2015. **Blackstone** season five is slated to air on APTN in fall 2015.

"Season five will be raw, real and powerful in the true form of Blackstone storytelling," says Ron E. Scott Executive Producer, Writer and Director, "We will continue to tell the stories that no one else tells."

Returning cast this season includes Carmen Moore, Eric Schweig, Michelle Thrush, Steven Cree Molison, Glen Gould, Justin Rain, and Tantoo Cardinal. Also returning next season is Jennifer Podemski, Cheri Maracle, John Cassini, Frank Cassini, Garry Chalk, Darrell Dennis, and Jessica Matten.

Blackstone is produced by Prairie Dog Film + Television, with Ron E. Scott as Executive Producer, Writer and Director, Jesse Szymanski as Co-Executive Producer, Damon Vignale as Writer/Producer. The series currently broadcasts in Canada on APTN, in the United States on Hulu, in New Zealand on Maori Television, in Australia on SBS/NITV, and is internationally distributed by PPI Releasing.

Blackstone has been nominated for 75 awards, winning 26 including two Geminis, six Leo Awards and multiple Alberta Film & Television Awards.

Blackstone is produced in association with Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, 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

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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, including a nomination for Best Dramatic Television Series for the revolutionary series *Blackstone*.

Over 180 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, Russia and South Africa. Prairie Dog ensures investment in the next generation of industry professionals through mentorship training programs as well as scholarships with Red Deer College, NAIT, Vancouver Film School and Victoria School of Performing and Visual Arts. The company also regularly donates its projects as educational resources to universities, libraries and schools internationally.

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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