

Media Release

Canada Council announces support for Dominion Institute's Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge

April 11, 2007 – The Dominion Institute is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Canada Council for the Arts for the 2007 Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge. As part of a campaign to increase submissions from Aboriginal youth across the country, the Canada Council will make a generous contribution to significantly increase cash prize amounts for the winners and runners up. The partnership will allow the Writing Challenge to reach more young Aboriginal writers than ever before.

"The Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge provides a unique opportunity for young aboriginal writers to showcase their talent", said Melanie Rutledge, Head, Writing and Publishing Section at the Canada Council for the Arts. "The Canada Council for the Arts is excited to partner with the Dominion Institute to expand the program in 2007."

Presented by Enbridge Inc., and organized by the Dominion Institute, the Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge is a national initiative for Aboriginal youth. Winners are selected from two age categories - ages 14-18 and 19-29 and are feted at an awards reception each Fall in Ottawa.

The first place winners in each age category will now receive a cash prize of \$2000.00 while second place entrants will collect \$1000.00. Each story will also be published in *The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine*. Students who have a story in the top ten, as selected by an expert Advisory Committee of Aboriginal authors and leaders, receive a cash prize. All winning essays are published online and each participant receives a certificate of recognition for their participation.

The deadline for this year's contest is **June 29, 2007**. Students and educators interested in learning more about the contest and submitting an essay should visit www.our-story.ca or call 1.866.701.1867.

The Dominion Institute is a national charitable organization dedicated to promoting Canadian history and civic culture (www.dominion.ca)

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