

***Calling all Aboriginal Youth to submit a short story
and win cash prizes!***

Two Weeks until Deadline for Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge

Media Release

June 14, 2007 – With the June 29th deadline fast approaching for the **Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge**, the Dominion Institute calls on Aboriginal youth from across the country to write a short story about a defining moment in Aboriginal history. Participants can win up to \$2000, earn national recognition as well as a trip to Ottawa to meet Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada.

Stories will be read by a Jury of some of Canada's most celebrated Aboriginal leaders and authors, including Tantoo Cardinal, Tomson Highway and Drew Hayden Taylor.

“Now in its third year, the Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge has proven to be an excellent vehicle for supporting young Aboriginal talent”, said Jeremy Diamond, Director of Programs at the Dominion Institute. “I challenge young Aboriginal writers to share that story they have always wanted to tell and have their voice heard.”

Building on the success of previous years, young Aboriginal writers will submit stories that interpret defining moments in the history of this country and its Aboriginal people. Supported by lead sponsor, 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.

The first place winners in each age category receive a **cash prize of \$2000.00** and a trip to Ottawa. Each winning story will also be published in *The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine*. The second place participant will receive a cash prize of \$1000.00 and the third place \$500.00. Students who have a story in the top ten, as selected by an expert Advisory Committee of Aboriginal authors and leaders (see below), receive a cash prize. **The first four classes to submit 20 stories will receive a digital camera.**

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