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News Release – For Immediate Release

## ***Young Aboriginal Authors from B.C. and Saskatchewan Win National Short Story Contest***

*Aboriginal Leaders, Senators and MPs Gather in Ottawa to Announce Winners*

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**Monday, October 30** - Aboriginal leaders, Senators, MPs and authors will gather tonight at the National Arts Centre (6pm) to announce the winners of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge celebrating the achievements of Canada's Aboriginal youth.

**The Honourable Gerry St. Germain, Senator**, Rod Bruinooge, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South and **Tom Hill of the Canada Council for the Arts** will make remarks and present the awards to this year's Aboriginal Writing Challenge winners Kerissa Dickie of Fort Nelson, BC and Chantelle Cheekinew of Regina, SK. These special guests will be joined by Aboriginal Senators, MPs, authors and other leaders in the Aboriginal community.

"The Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge receives a great number of short stories from talented writers across Canada," said Alison Faulknor, Acting Director of the Dominion Institute. "Each year, we are overwhelmed by the creative, brave and sensitive way that these young people tackle a broad range of topics. From first contact to the recent events unfolding in Caledonia and from community violence to the effects of the residential school system, these young writers use the Writing Challenge as a way to make meaning of events that are significant to all Canadians."

Presented by Enbridge Inc. and organized by the Dominion Institute, the **Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge** is a national short story contest for Aboriginal youth. Participants are invited to write a short story about a defining moment or event in Aboriginal history ([www.our-story.ca](http://www.our-story.ca)). Winners are selected from two age categories - ages 14-18 and 19-29. The contest was inspired by the publication of the Dominion Institute's *Our Story*, a short story compilation that includes contributions by some of Canada's leading Aboriginal authors, Tantoo Cardinal, Tomson Highway and Thomas King. Many of these authors sit on the jury for the Writing Challenge and help to select the winning entries each year.

The first place winners in each age category receive a \$2000 prize and a trip to Ottawa. Each story has been 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, also receive a cash prize. All winning essays are published online and each participant receives a certificate of recognition for their participation.

"Enbridge is extremely proud to partner with the Dominion Institute again for our third Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge," said Bonnie DuPont, Group Vice President, Corporate Resources, Enbridge Inc. "This Challenge offers an important opportunity for young Aboriginal

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Canadians to have their stories and experiences heard by the rest of Canada and create ongoing dialogue and understanding of Aboriginal culture.”

The Aboriginal Writing Challenge is made possible by a group of dedicated partners including Enbridge Inc., RBC Foundation, The Canada Council, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Office of Literacy and Learning. Additional support is provided by Canadian Learning Television, The Beaver: Canada’s History Magazine and The National Association of Friendship Centres.

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

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