

## For Immediate release

### Directors Guild of Canada Responds to CanWest Decision

*Toronto, December 21, 2007* – The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) today expressed profound disappointment with yesterday's approval by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) of the CanWest Global Communications Corp. and Goldman Sachs Capital Partners purchase of Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc., but indicated that the Guild was pleased with many aspects of the benefits package detailed in the ruling.

In its appearance before the CRTC, the DGC expressed grave concern over the unprecedented level of foreign investment involved in the transaction, and the potential for control in fact by the investor in question. Moreover, the Guild saw this as a regrettable precedent for levels of foreign investment and potential control in future such deals. While some concessions were put in place to satisfy the CRTC on the matter of control in fact, the DGC remains unconvinced that these will prove adequate.

"We are deeply disappointed by the decision as it relates to the level of foreign investment," said Brian Anthony, National Executive Director and CEO of the Guild. "We are also highly skeptical that the concessions concerning the potential for control in fact by a foreign investor of Canadian programming decisions will be the effective safeguards we called for," he went on to say.

However, the DGC noted with approval that the CRTC had made many of the changes to the benefits package the Guild had requested. In particular, it cited the reduction from ten to seven years of the timeframe for spending the benefits, the overall increase in the benefits package, the emphasis on dramatic production and the use of independent producers, and the requirement that the benefits be truly and measurably incremental in nature.

"As an industry, we are encouraged at the amount of funding that will flow into the independent production of Canadian drama over the next seven years. We feel that the CRTC gave our recommendations about the benefits package serious consideration," said DGC President Alan Goluboff. "We appreciate the measures the Commission has put in place in response to our recommendations," he concluded.

The Directors Guild of Canada (DGC) is a national labour organization that represents over 3,800 key creative and logistical personnel in the film and television industry covering all areas of direction, design, production and editing. The DGC negotiates and administers collective agreements and lobbies extensively on issues of concern for members including Canadian content conditions, CRCT regulations and ensuring that funding is maintained for Canadian film and television programming.

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