

**News Release**

## **Calgary Celebrates Young Winners of the Aboriginal Writing Challenge National Chief Phil Fontaine and Tom Jackson as Special Guests**

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**June 17 – Calgary** – Aboriginal leaders, politicians and local community members gathered this evening, during Aboriginal Awareness Week, at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary to celebrate the winners of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge.

**Chief Phil Fontaine** of the Assembly of First Nations, **Lieutenant Governor of Alberta**, Norman Kwong, the **Honourable Gene Zwozdesky**, Alberta's Aboriginal Relations Minister, and musician and actor **Tom Jackson**, provided formal remarks and presented the awards to this year's young winners.

"It was inspiring to read the hundreds of stories that were sent to us by such talented young people from across the country," said Alison Faulknor, Acting Director of the Dominion Institute. "Both of the first place entries in this year's Aboriginal Writing Challenge address the broad theme of reclaiming Aboriginal heritage and identity. The message is one of hope for future generations through reconnecting with their past."

Sponsored by Enbridge Inc. and organized by the Dominion Institute, the Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge is a national initiative for Aboriginal youth. Participants between the ages 14-18 and 19-29 are invited to write a short story about a defining moment in Aboriginal history. The winning entries are selected by a jury of esteemed Aboriginal authors and leaders.

The first place winners in each category receive a \$2000 prize and a trip to Calgary for the Awards Ceremony. The two first place entries are published in *The Beaver*: Canada's History Magazine and the top ten entries posted on the website - [www.our-story.ca](http://www.our-story.ca).

The Writing Challenge is sponsored by Enbridge Inc., the National Office of Literacy and Essential Skills, Canada Council for the Arts, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, and Royal Bank of Canada.

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**Reception and Awards Presentation:**

Tuesday June 17, 2008  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Glenbow Museum  
130 – 9 Avenue S.E.  
Calgary, Alberta

**For Further Information Contact:**

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## 2008 Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge Winners

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### 14-18 Age Category

1. Nigel Grenier  
Age 14  
North Vancouver, BC  
*"Unmasked"*
2. Ashley Brown  
Age 17  
Stephenville Crossing, NL  
*"The Capture of Demasduit"*
3. Erica Lee  
Age 17  
Saskatoon, SK  
*"Beyond this World"*
4. Ashley Kagige  
Age 18  
Scarborough, ON  
*"Stolen Identity"*
5. Nikki Triolaire  
Age 14  
Sherwood Park, AB  
*"Last Words"*
6. Deserae Tailfeathers  
Age 14  
Cardston, AB  
*"Present Day Quebec"*
7. Tatiana Ruiz  
Age 16  
Kamloops, BC  
*"I Am Winter"*
8. Crystal Smith  
Age 17  
Vancouver, BC  
*"Living Traditions"*
9. Julie-Dean Chartrand  
Age 17  
Winnipeg, MB  
*"Fight"*
10. Alyssa Bird  
Age 15  
Winnipeg, MB  
*"Frustration"*

### 19-29 Age Category

1. Shaneen Robinson  
Age 28  
Winnipeg, MB  
*"Notay Kiskintamowin - Wanting to Know"*
2. Jason Matthews  
Age 22  
Port Williams, NS  
*"Constantinople"*
3. Clifford Cardinal  
Age 23  
Vancouver, BC  
*"Ride"*
4. Shelley Cook  
Age 28  
Winnipeg, MB  
*"Indian Grandmother"*
5. Starleigh Grass  
Age 26  
Westbank, BC  
*"Aunty Eileen's Bedtime Stories"*
6. Carl Brave Rock (tie)  
Age 25  
Standoff, AB  
*"Blockade"*
6. Jordan Abel (tie)  
Age 22  
Edmonton, AB  
*"Sweetgrass"*
8. Shawna Snache  
Age 27  
Rama First Nation, ON  
*"Homecoming"*
9. Robert Doxtator  
Age 22  
Carrying Place, ON  
*"Genesis to Genocide: The Call of Grandfather Tonniataren:ton"*
10. Joshua Sherry  
Age 24  
Brantford, ON  
*"Honourable Sacrifice"*



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