



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2004

imagineNATIVE FILM + MEDIA ARTS FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES

ALLIANCE ATLANTIS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM **DEADLINE FRIDAY OCTOBER 15 2004**

imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival is proud to announce the first ever Alliance Atlantis Mentorship Program. Taking place October 20th-24th the festival brings together the best of Aboriginal creativity from around the world. Alliance Atlantis joins **imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival** to give one talented Aboriginal producer or director the invaluable opportunity to receive one-on-one career coaching, consultation and guidance from a seasoned commissioning editor, **Cindy Witten**. The **Alliance Atlantis Mentorship Program** winner will be announced at the festival's **Awards Ceremony and Closing Night Party**, taking place on Sunday, October 24th at the El Mocambo (464 Spadina Ave.)

Cindy Witten, Vice President, Production, Factual & BBC Channels, has been with Alliance Atlantis Broadcasting for 5 years. She brings her previous experience as a production executive with Life Network and HGTV Canada to her current role as the Vice President of Original Production for the Factual & BBC Channels - including History Television, National Geographic Channel, BBC CANADA, and BBC Kids. She has recently commissioned two Aboriginal-themed documentaries: "Kunuk Family Reunion" (directed by Zacharias Kunuk, co-commissioned with APTN) and "Stolen Souls of the Haida Gwaii." Before joining Alliance Atlantis, **Witten** worked with the CBC, producing Big Life with Daniel Richler and as a field/features producer for The National for six years, working out of the Ontario and Ottawa Parliamentary bureaus. **Witten** was also a current affairs producer for CBC's Toronto supper hour and has produced several live specials for Newsworld. She holds her MA in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario.

This program is nationally competitive to Canadian Aboriginal producers and directors. Please send your resume including your previously-produced credits as well as an up-to-date production slate of upcoming projects or projects in development to kswanson@imagineNATIVE.org. The deadline for all submissions is Friday, October 15, 2004.

The **imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival's** mandate is to promote and train Aboriginal media artists from across Canada and works to support both established and emerging artists. Industry workshops and panels are offered free of charge to both artists and the public.

For further information, please contact:

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