

November 12, 2009

Television movie on the life of Sir Sam Steele in development

Calgary... In honour and celebration of Canada's rich military and policing heritage, a television movie screenplay is in development based on the life and adventures of one of the west's most revered and decorated Mounties, Sir Samuel Benfield Steele.

"The letters, artifacts and papers from the Sir Sam Steele Collection document a significant time of change and development in western Canadian history," said Lindsay Blackett, Minister of Culture and Community Spirit. "With this television production, we as Albertans and Canadians have the opportunity to tell the stories of our past and celebrate our heritage."

In 2008, the Alberta government took part in a ceremony in Trafalgar Square in London, England, which saw the acquisition and repatriation of an important piece of history to Alberta - the Sir Samuel Benfield Steele Collection. The collection is now housed at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary and the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

"From the Red River Expedition to the Boer War, Sir Sam Steele has been at the forefront of several monumental events around the world," said Kirstine Stewart, General Manager of CBC Television English Services. "As Canada's national public broadcaster, we are pleased to be involved in the development of this project and others like it that help to tell the stories of the people and events that have shaped our country today."

The future television production reaffirms a commitment made to Albertans and the Steele family by government that Steele's life would be honoured, and his stories told. This production may be eligible for funding from the Alberta Film Development Program. To reach more Canadians, the project will include content designed for the web and mobile devices.

"Sam Steele is an iconic figure in our history whose real life adventures rival that of an Indiana Jones, yet few Canadians know his name," said Chris Knight, president of Knight Enterprises. "Knight Enterprises is proud to be bringing this great Canadian's story to the screen, thanks to the key support of Alberta Culture and Community Spirit and the CBC."

CBC/Radio-Canada is Canada's national public broadcaster and one of its largest cultural institutions. With 28 services offered on Radio, Television, the Internet, satellite radio, digital audio, as well as through its record and music distribution service and wireless WAP and SMS messaging services, CBC/Radio-Canada is available how, where, and when Canadians want it.

Knight Enterprises is a Canadian media company that creates, produces and distributes content for multi-platform delivery. With programming aired in 91 countries, the Knight Enterprises' catalogue of distinctive, high end programming enjoys an international fan base

across many languages and cultures. www.knight-tv.com.

The Government of Alberta has a clear plan for a strong economic recovery. *The Way Forward* will bring Alberta back into a surplus position in three years by trimming government spending; using cash reserves to protect key programs; continuing to invest in public infrastructure; and ensuring that our province's industries are competitive and continue to attract investment to provide jobs and prosperity.

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