

Canadian Comedy Awards and Festival



Canadian Comedy Awards & Festival going Prairie (*not Postal*)

(September 11, 2007) The Comedy Network's Canadian Comedy Awards & Festival is pleased to announce it is moving to Saskatchewan in 2008. **Premier Lorne Calvert** today announced the province has successfully bid for the event to be staged in Regina, October 2-5, 2008.

It will remain in London, Ont., this year, but next year, the annual awards festival, featuring Canadian comics from around the world to recognize the best in live, tv and film performances, will move west.

After 3 years in Toronto as a one-night industry event, the event moved to London in 2003 and expanded to a multi-day festival. The 8th annual celebration rolls into London, October 9 -13.

Steady growth, increased industry participation and a two-hour national television special caught the attention of other cities. Saskatchewan made an offer to host the event in 2008 which was impossible for organizers to refuse.

"The Comedy Awards celebrate the best across the country and it will bring a new dimension by holding it in another community", says producer Cass Bayley. "I am a strong London supporter, and the hospitality in this city has been nothing less than incredible. However, it is gratifying to have the festival recognized to this extent nationally, even though it is bittersweet to leave London."

"The comedians love London and the 2007 event will be the most ambitious program to-date", says Bayley. Festival Co-Chairs Roger Abbott and Don Ferguson of *The Royal Canadian Air Farce* agree the time has come to take the celebration on the road. "The Awards reflect the mood of the nation and we look forward to uncovering the underbelly of Regina," says Abbott. "And that's just for starters." Neither Premier Calvert nor his staff was available to interpret what Abbot was implying.

The Awards have launched many careers and shows including Nia Vardolas' *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, the Tony-Award Broadway hit *Drowsy Chaperon*, and the only Canadian in the final three of *The Last Comic Standing*, Gerry Dee, to name a few. This year the Festival is tickled to bring one of the top comics in the world Jeremy Hotz, back to Canada for a special performance.