



## **WIFT-T announces Dina Pugliese as host of 2006 Crystal Awards and Pamela Wallin as Honorary Alumni Chair**

(TORONTO – Tuesday, November 7, 2006) Women in Film and Television – Toronto (WIFT-T) is pleased to announce that Dina Pugliese, co-host of *BT-BreakfastTelevision*, CHUM Television’s daily morning show, will host the **2006 Crystal Awards** gala luncheon on December 4, 2006 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel in Toronto. In addition, Pamela Wallin, broadcaster and former Consul General of Canada in New York, will be the Honorary Alumni Chair of the 2006 Awards presentation.

“We are delighted that both Dina and Pamela have agreed to join us this year,” said Sue Sheridan, Executive Director of WIFT-T. “Their participation further enhances what is already an exciting salute to Canada’s formidable talent in screen-based media.”

Dina Pugliese began her career working on Global Television’s *The Bynon Show*. After producing and working behind the camera, she changed direction in 2003, when she moved to Toronto I as entertainment anchor on their morning show. Shortly after, she moved to primetime as host of the *A-List*. In 2005, Dina joined CHUM Television as co-host of the daily entertainment program *Star! Daily* and has just signed on as co-host of *BT - BreakfastTelevision*. She received a Gemini nomination for hosting *VJ Search: The Series*.

"I am privileged to be hosting the 2006 Crystal Awards, celebrating the important and irreplaceable role women play in the Canadian television and film industry," said Pugliese. "To be in the company of such confident, intelligent and trailblazing women is truly an honour."

Pamela Wallin is one of Canada’s most respected journalists and businesswomen. The career of the Canadian-born journalist, diplomat and entrepreneur has spanned more than 30 years and several continents. She has hosted *Canada AM* and anchored the CTV weekend news, and became the first Canadian woman to co-anchor the nightly national television newscast *Prime Time News*. She also hosted the Canadian edition of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. She is currently the Senior Advisor to the President of the Americas Society and the Council of the Americas in New York.

"I am delighted to be this year's Honorary Chair and look forward to what is sure to be a memorable occasion," said Wallin. "I am honoured to be part of a celebration that pays tribute to such a distinguished group of remarkable and talented women."

As the 2006 Crystal Awards Honorary Alumni Chair, Wallin will represent more than 80 past Crystal Award winners in a special presentation. Alumni will also be honoured at the RBC Royal Bank Alumni Reception, a pre-luncheon gathering attended by award winners, special guests and media.

The WIFT-T 2006 Crystal Award winners, selected by a jury of Crystal Award alumni, are:

**Outstanding Achievement Award, presented in association with CanWest MediaWorks**

CHRISTINA JENNINGS, Chair and Co-CEO of Shaftesbury Films Inc.

*Presented by Kathleen Dore, President, Television & Radio, CanWest MediaWorks Inc.*

**Creative Excellence Award, presented in association with NBC Universal**

JENNIFER BAICHWAL, Director, Producer

*Presented by Ron Suter, Senior Vice President, NBC Universal Canada*

**Phyllis Switzer Mentorship Award, presented in association with CHUM Limited**

KAREN GELBART, Senior Vice President, Content, Lifestyle Channels, Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc.

*Presented by Sarah Crawford, Vice President, Public Affairs, CHUM Television*

**Crystal Jury Award**

JEANNE BEKER, Host and Segment Producer, FT-Fashion Television and Fashion Television Channel

*Presented by Marcia Martin, Vice President, Production, CHUM Television*

The 2006 Crystal Awards will also include presentations of the WIFT-T mentorship awards: the Kodak New Vision Fellowship, the CBC Canadian Reflections Award, the Alliance Atlantis Diversity in Broadcasting Internship, and the Quebecor BANFF Mentorship Award.

Crystal Awards 2006 Presenting Partners: CHUM Limited and NBC UNIVERSAL

Women in Film and Television – Toronto (WIFT-T) is a leading internationally affiliated professional organization that recognizes, trains and advances women in screen-based media. WIFT-T offers a year-round slate of skills development, networking events and industry awards, providing the tools to succeed in Canada's global entertainment industry. WIFT-T serves more than 3,000 women and men in Canadian screen-based media, connecting them to close to 10,000 leading film, television, and new media professionals worldwide.

For more information, please contact:  
Christine Amendola  
Communications Manager  
Women in Film and Television – Toronto (WIFT-T)  
416-322-3430 ext. 228  
[camendola@wift.com](mailto:camendola@wift.com)  
[www.wift.com](http://www.wift.com)  
[www.canadianfilmmaker.com](http://www.canadianfilmmaker.com)