

## Prairie Production Centre Celebrates Completion of Phase II New capacity attracts anchor tenant

**November 12, 2002 (Winnipeg, Canada)** – “Lights, Action, Camera” – these famous words will be heard more frequently in Manitoba after today’s official opening of the second phase of Prairie Production Centre (PPC) a state-of-the-art 40,000 square foot Soundstage/Film studio and Production Complex in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

“Today’s official opening sends a signal to local, national and international filmmakers that Manitoba’s film industry is committed to excellence and fully open for business,” said James Umlah, a PPC board member and Chief Investment Officer of the Crocus Investment Fund, an investor in the sound stage. “Film makers responded positively when we completed phase one of the project and we made a commitment then to go to phase two in response to demand, and we have lived up to that promise today.”

The decision to go ahead with the expansion was triggered by the signing of a letter of understanding between PPC and **Minds Eye Entertainment**, the largest privately held motion picture production and distribution company in Western Canada. **Minds Eye Entertainment** will use 50% of the available dates of the expanded production centre for Manitoba projects including filming of its hit sci-fi television series *2030CE*.

“We love Winnipeg and will continue to produce *2030CE* here in the future,” said Kevin DeWalt, Chairman and CEO at **Minds Eye Entertainment**. “We are also working on several other projects that are now much more feasible given the expansion of the facilities here at PPC and because of the tremendous talent pool that has assembled to support film making in Manitoba. To ensure our success in Manitoba we have merged our Manitoba operations with those of Buffalo Gal Pictures thereby ensuring a permanent office in Winnipeg.”

Like many other successful projects that can have strong economic impacts, PPC is a public-private partnership. “This type of partnership has proven to be a model for success and we know our investment of \$1.8 million from this and that program ...”

Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray participated in the ceremony and is extremely enthusiastic about the expansion and the future of film making in Winnipeg. “Winnipeg has earned its reputation as a top choice for national and international filmmakers and as a result we find it has become part of our conscious at city hall,” added Mayor Murray. “It is now standard procedure to always consider the impact on the film industry in our planning and decision making. It is good business that benefits all Winnipeggers.”

Established in 1986, **Minds Eye Entertainment** is a fully integrated production, post-production and distribution entity with offices across Canada. As western Canada’s largest privately held film and television production company, **Minds Eye Entertainment** is currently in production with season one of *Just Cause* (W Network, PAX TV), the television movie *Betrayed* (CBC), season two of *2030CE* (YTV), season four of *Mentors* (Family Channel) and season two of *Prairie Berry Pie* (APTN). The company website is [www.mindseyepictures.com](http://www.mindseyepictures.com).

**Prairie Production Centre** is a state-of-the-art 40,000-square-foot Soundstage/Film studio and Production Complex in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada – one of North America’s most versatile and inviting filming destinations. The facility features a 35-foot high clear-span studio space, complete workshop and storage facilities, multiple private and open-design furnished offices, ample make-up/wardrobe/greenrooms/dressing rooms, star dressing rooms and substantial general commissary areas. The facility also includes a fenced compound, acres of parking and multiple loading docks. For more about PPC visit their website at [www.prairieproduction.com](http://www.prairieproduction.com).

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