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FOR RELEASE

-- Halifax, Nova Scotia. The 15th annual Atlantic Canada Craft Awards for Excellence were presented in Halifax on February 4th, 2012. The Atlantic Canada Craft Awards for Excellence are the principle form of recognition for leadership and excellence for professional craft producers and for those who are strong supporters of the craft industry in Atlantic Canada. The awards are given annually during a gala ceremony held in conjunction with the Atlantic Craft Trade Show (ACTS). One Award is presented in each of the following categories: Excellence in Product Design, Outstanding Exporter, Outstanding Retailer and Industry Leader/Supporter.

Recipients of the Atlantic Canada Craft Awards for Excellence are Craft producers & Artisans throughout Atlantic Canada who, by their professional example, personify outstanding standards within the industry. Through dedication and commitment, recipients are those who have achieved prominence in the community and creditability in the industry.

The 2012 recipients of the Atlantic Canada Craft Awards for Excellence are:

Excellence in Product Design: Alexis Templeton, St. John's, NL

Outstanding Exporter: Brent Rourke, Bloomfield, NB

Outstanding Retailer: Jennifer's of Nova Scotia, Halifax, NS

Industry Leader/Supporter: Anne Manuel, St. John's, NL

Craft Alliance ~ Alliance métiers d'arts, also presented their annual retailer awards; Top 5 Craft Retailers in Atlantic Canada. The Top 5 Craft Retailers in Atlantic Canada, will recognize the contribution to the craft industry in atlantic canada by retailers specializing in the retail of handcrafted products.

THE TOP 5 CRAFT RETAILERS IN ATLANTIC CANADA FOR 2012, IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER ARE:

- MAPLES GALLERY, HALIFAX, NS
- NORTHERN WATERS KNITWEAR, CHARLOTTETOWN, PEI
- JENNIFER'S OF NOVA SCOTIA, HALIFAX, NS
- ART EFFECTS FINE CRAFTS GALLERY, HOPEWELL CAPE, NB
- KING'S POINT POTTERY, KING'S POINT, NL

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Awards for Excellence
Continued:
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Three other craft producers were also recognized at the awards ceremony with annual trade show awards for the Atlantic Craft Trade Show. These companies were:

Best New Product: Brent Rourke Cabinetmaker, Bloomfield, NB

Best Booth Display: Marcela Rosemberg Glass Studio, Stratford, PEI

Heather Stone Emerging Artist Award: Ruth Jarvis Coleman, New Brunswick College of Craft & Design, Fredericton, NB

Atlantic Canada Craft Awards for Excellence and the Atlantic Craft Trade Show are projects of Craft Alliance ~ Alliance métiers d'arts, a pan-Atlantic trade association serving the craft industry in Atlantic Canada.

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