

***Sled Dogs*, Directed by Fern Levitt,
The First Documentary to Reveal the Truth About Commercial Sled Dog Operations,
To Have World Premiere at
2016 Whistler Film Festival**

Follow us on –

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/sleddogsfilm>

Instagram: @sleddogsfilm

Twitter: @sleddogsfilm

Press materials available at: www.sleddogsfilm.com



November 1, 2016. Toronto. Following today's official announcement by the Whistler Film Festival, CCI Entertainment and Documentary Channel are thrilled to celebrate the selection of ***SLED DOGS*** to be screened as part of Whistler's Documentary Strand program. That the film's world premiere will take place so close to where, in 2011, 100 sled dogs were brutally murdered, sparking outrage throughout North America, is particularly poignant.

"This film comes at a critical moment when the public is waking up to the treatment of animals and demanding change. The audience will be outraged when they discover the legal abuse of 'man's best friend' under the guise of sport and entertainment. This is a timely documentary and a definitive call for action," said

director Fern Levitt. "I am thrilled that our film will premiere at the Whistler Film Festival as it was here that the world first learned the truth about how dogs are treated in the tourism industry."

"The power of the documentary in today's world is all about educating the audience on a variety of issues and, in the case of ***SLED DOGS***, allowing the audience to also witness hidden truths and the ability to create change through this education," added Producer Arnie Zipursky.

"Sled Dogs provides a raw and uncompromising glimpse at an industry that needs to shape up; audiences won't look at dogs or dog-sledding in the same way again," said Bruce Cowley, senior director of documentary Channel.

Immediately after the 2011 sled dog cull, cries of outrage by the dog-loving public forced the provincial government to enact tougher legislation to protect these animals. But did they? Similar to the award-winning films, *The Cove* and *Blackfish*, ***Sled Dogs*** is the first documentary to expose a shattering reality far removed from the billboards that beckon tourists to come for the "ride of their life, pulled by a team of huskies."

SLED DOGS follow four distinct, but interrelated stories, filmed on location throughout Alaska, Colorado, Wyoming, Quebec, British Columbia, and Ontario.

Directed by award-winning documentary filmmaker **Fern Levitt** (*Paws for Autism*, *Little Rock Nine*, *Gorbachev's Revolution*, *7 Days of Remembrance & Hope*) with breathtaking footage captured by award-winning cinematographer **Matt Gallagher** (*Dog's Life*, *How to Prepare for Prison*, *The Motherload*), the film provides an exhilarating cinematic experience. The film is produced by **Slater-Brody Productions Ltd.** in association with the **documentary Channel** and **Canada Media Fund** with the participation of **Rogers Cable Network Fund**.

About CCI Entertainment

CCI has over 30 years as one of Canada's leading independent production companies; CCI is a developer, packager and executive producer of quality entertainment -- the team is made up of strategic thinkers, award winning creative talent and experienced brand managers. Notable credits include the critically acclaimed film *The Ride*, award-winning feature/mini-series *Iron Road* and the TV Movie *Anything But Christmas*. CCI has just completed the family action comedy feature film *Undercover Grandpa*, the first film produced from the Telefilm-Corus Family Feature Fund and selected for official screening at the International Family Film Festival in Los Angeles. CCI's feature film pre-production and development slate boasts: *57 Hours* – a hostage drama based on a real life event to be directed by Clark Johnson, *Takin' Care of Business* -- a road-comedy with a record-setting live event, produced with Randy Bachman and Gilles Paquin, *The Palm Effect* – a feature documentary directed by Fern Levitt that is a co-production with Brazil, and *Someone Else's Wedding* -- a romantic comedy written and directed by Pat Kiely slated for production end 2016/early 2017.

About CBC's documentary Channel

CBC's *documentary* Channel is Canada's only documentary channel, bringing viewers documentary programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. These slices of life explore the wild, weird, wacky fascinating stories of the world. At *documentary* Channel, Bruce Cowley is Creative Head and Jordana Ross is Production Executive.