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For Immediate Release

AlbertaViews magazine recognized for excellence in mental health reporting

Calgary, AB — The Alberta Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health (AAMIMH) has selected *AlbertaViews* magazine as the winner of this year's Dennis Anderson Media Award for Excellence in Mental Health Reporting.

The award recognizes *AlbertaViews*' Nov/Dec 2003 issue which focused on Alberta's crisis in treating the mentally ill. The nomination stated:

"Never before in the history of this province (and perhaps the country) has a magazine dedicated a full edition to mental health issues—and at a time that government is actively considering the future of services. Entitled 'Back to the Future,' the (issue) may indeed have 'backed a future' that the AAMIMH has pressed for several years."

The award is named after and was presented by Dennis Anderson, a former Alberta cabinet minister and founding member of the AAMIMH. Nominations were open to all newspaper, television, radio and magazine reports printed, published or aired during 2003 that dealt with some aspect of Alberta's mental health system.

AlbertaViews' Features Editor, Dan Rubinstein, accepted the award on Friday, March 12 at the AAMIMH annual conference in Edmonton. "*AlbertaViews* is honoured to be recognized like this by the AAMIMH," says Rubinstein. "We attempted to help Albertans understand these complex issues by putting together a meaningful package of stories—and we're thankful that the AAMIMH shares our belief that a magazine can indeed have an impact on what happens in this province."

Since its launch in 1997, *AlbertaViews* magazine has courageously covered issues of importance to Albertans while providing alternative viewpoints on the politics, social issues and culture of the province. Also nominated for Best Social/Cultural Coverage in the 2003 Utne Independent Press Awards, *AlbertaViews* is the only magazine of its kind in the province.

An electronic archive of the Nov/Dec 2003 issue on Mental Illness can be viewed online at www.albertaviews.ab.ca. For more information or to set up an interview, contact Amber Bowerman in Calgary at 403 243 5334.

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