

Press Release: October 31, 2012

For immediate Release

**Calgary resident Ash Khan is co-recipient of the national
*Champion for Education in Afghanistan Award***

Calgary resident Ash Khan is co-recipient of the annual *Champion for Education in Afghanistan Award* in recognition of his outstanding contributions in helping advance the right to education for women and children in Afghanistan. The award was presented in absentia at the CW4WAfghan CHAMPIONS' CEREMONY as part of the symposium on girls education in Afghanistan held October 11-13, 2012 in Pictou County, Nova Scotia. The co-recipient for this year's award, was Canadian author, Deborah Elis.



Ash Khan has dedicated his life to bringing grassroots support by way of his personal travel, involvement and commitment to local communities dealing with poverty, whether in Afghanistan or nearby Pakistan. His initiatives have a common focus on universal human rights: to food, to shelter and to the right to basic education. In 2009-2010, Ash spent six months in the Jalalabad area of Afghanistan overseeing the project management and construction of a rural school. This school provides a safe environment in the region for young boys and girls to attend school and to move out of the tattered tent schools to which they had become accustomed. In 2011, Ash worked with members of a remote community in Pakistan to develop a system to provide clean water to the region after the heavy flooding from a devastating earthquake. This year, in October 2012, he was unable to receive the award in Nova Scotia as he was working again in Pakistan with the Calgary-based non-profit, Four Worlds, to help build capacity for rural communities suffering from extreme poverty.

The Champion's Award was launched last year during a tribute gala dinner for Canadian journalist and women's rights activist Sally Armstrong to honour her many years of work covering stories about the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan and around the world.



“At any given time, you can find Ash roaming the back roads of rural Afghanistan or Pakistan

Ash is the ideal recipient for our Champion Award and the depth of his commitment to improving the lives of women and girls in Afghanistan is something truly extraordinary,” says CW4WAfghan's projects director, Lauryn Oates, at the ceremony in Nova Scotia.

The local Calgary Chapter of CW4WAfghan will be honouring Ash Khan and presenting his award at their December 19th “Volunteer Appreciation” pot luck dinner.

For further information visit the EVENTS at www.cw4wafghan.ca, email Calgary@cw4wafghan.ca, or call 403 244-5625.

Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan (CW4WAfghan.ca) is a member-based, not-for-profit organization founded in 1996 with thirteen volunteer chapters across Canada. CW4WAfghan is a non-religious, non-political, federally registered charity in Canada. Volunteers work together to advance education and educational opportunities for Afghan women and their families, and to educate Canadians about human rights in Afghanistan.