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For immediate Release

Canadian award-winning author and Simcoe resident Deborah Ellis is co-recipient of the national *Champion for Education in Afghanistan Award*.

Canadian award-winning author and Simcoe resident Deborah Ellis is co-recipient of the annual *Champion for Education in Afghanistan Award* in recognition of her outstanding contributions in helping advance the right to education for women and children in Afghanistan. The award was presented at a dinner in her honour as part of the CW4WAfghan 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 Calgary resident, Ash Khan.



Deborah Ellis talks with Lauren, a young student in Nova Scotia who is a member of the Little Women for Little Women teams across Canada.

Deborah Ellis first wrote about the desperate reality for Afghan women and girls under the Taliban regime in the mid-1990s. Over the past decade, hundreds of thousands of adults and children all over the world have read and loved *The Breadwinner Trilogy*. The royalties from this acclaimed trilogy and the newly released, *My Name Is Parvana* and *Kids of Kabul* have been generously donated by Deborah Ellis to the registered charity, CW4WAfghan. An remarkable \$1.2 million has been allocated to the CW4WAfghan PARVANA FUND for FUND for education projects for Afghan women and children, including schools, libraries and literacy program (see www.CW4WAfghan.ca HOW WE HELP for more details).



Deborah Ellis talks with the KIDS OF KABUL in January 2011. This young brother and sister are among some 25 children, age 10-17, who were interviewed by Deborah and featured in her new book, the *Kids of Kabul (Groundwood)*.

directly within these communities, and aimed at long-term sustainable solutions to ending poverty and oppression,” said Janice Eisenhauer, Executive Director of CW4WAfghan.

“I was personally very honoured to travel to Afghanistan with Deb last year and to see her in action as she interviewed young Afghan children in Kabul to learn about their struggles and priorities. These children are the future hope for Afghanistan. Deb was able to see first hand how important the book royalties are when they are invested

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 and dedication covering stories about the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan and around the world.

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.