



Journalist/Author Recognized for Her Work in Afghanistan

October 3, 2014

Manitoba - The non-profit, charitable organization *Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan* (CW4WAfghan) is pleased to present the organization's annual *Champion of Education in Afghanistan Award* to a remarkable woman: international award-winning journalist and author, Mellissa Fung. The award is being presented at the organization's annual symposium, being held at the Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg, on Oct 3rd. This award is presented annually to recognize an individual who has given outstanding service to the cause of supporting education for girls or women in Afghanistan.

Mellissa Fung, award-winning international journalist and former CBC correspondent, began her love affair with Afghanistan when she travelled there to report on the conditions in one of the sprawling camps for internally displaced persons. She was abducted on the outskirts of Kabul on her second tour of the country in 2008. Her book, *Under an Afghan Sky*, powerfully chronicles that experience and was, for many of us, our first introduction to this amazing woman who cared so much about the Afghan people, especially the girls and women.

In May of 2013, five years after she was kidnapped, she courageously returned to Afghanistan, along with a CW4WAfghan delegation, to reset her narrative and affirm her belief in the people of Afghanistan and a hopeful future, in spite of daunting challenges. To quote Mellissa, *"I think that when you go through something so traumatic, you're forever tied to that place and those people. I will never be able to stop thinking about the hope I saw in the eyes of the women and girls I met there."*



Madeliene Tarasick, CW4WAfghan's President, states, "Mellissa has continued to be a relentless advocate for the women of Afghanistan, and outstanding friend of *Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan*. She has passionately dedicated herself to a relentless schedule of pro bono speaking engagements across the country, including Charlottetown, Ottawa, Kingston, Calgary, New Glasgow, Vancouver, and Winnipeg among others. Everywhere she goes, she has inspired her audiences and prompted or affirmed their commitment to support Afghan girls and

women, though she is steadfastly humble about her achievements. This selfless contribution of time, talent and energy has translated into a staggering sum of dollars raised to support CW4WAfghan girls, women and families. She is truly a Champion who has been stellar in realizing our mission of raising both awareness and funds to carry on the work we so greatly cherish. Thank you, *tashakor*, Mellissa".

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