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GENERATION XXL
PREMIERES ON CBC TELEVISION
THURSDAY, MARCH 8 at 8:00 P.M.

Four Overweight Teenagers Deal with Body Image and Self-Esteem

PROGRAMMING NOTICE

Toronto, February 6, 2007 –

Vincent is addicted to fast food; Greg hides behind his jokes; Kat searches for herself in beauty products; and a bullied Raya retreats to her room. All four of these Nova Scotia teenagers are profiled on **GENERATION XXL, an hour-long documentary from filmmaker Teresa MacInnes, premiering on CBC Television Thursday, March 8 at 8:00 P.M.**

What Vincent, Greg, Kat and Raya have in common is that they're all overweight or obese. As such, they're part of a growing number of overweight teens, packing on the pounds because of sedentary lifestyles and too much junk food. The health consequences are alarming - early-onset Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, cardio-vascular disease and other conditions up until recently thought of as mainly 'adult' diseases. This 'supersized' generation has come to be known as "Generation XXL".

GENERATION XXL follows Vincent, Kat, Raya and Greg as they attend a Fit Intervention Program aimed at improving self-esteem and teaching healthy eating. As they confront their pounds and themselves, we learn what it's like to be an overweight teen - the butt of jokes, bullying, and nasty slurs. We soon realize that for teenagers weight loss is more complex than simply getting off the couch or embarking on a diet.

A reflection of our own complex era, **GENERATION XXL** goes beyond the obvious and oversimplified, offering an intimate, funny and character-driven look at the real situation of an overweight or obese teenager in today's consumer-oriented North American society. **GENERATION XXL** raises serious questions about society's response to the extra large, gives youth a voice, and has a message that resonates for all of us.

GENERATION XXL has its own website, including a trailer and music from the film, as well as an interactive web forum for discussion about obesity and body image. Visit: www.generationxxl.ca.

GENERATION XXL is written and directed by Teresa MacInnes. Director of Photography is Kent Nason. The film was edited by Peter Giffen and Teresa MacInnes. Executive producer is Lesley Ann Patten of Ziji Film and Television Ltd. For CBC: Michael Claydon, Catherine Olsen and Diane Rotteau.

GENERATION XXL is produced by Ziji Film and Television Ltd. in association with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and with the participation of the Canadian Television Fund created by the Government of Canada and the Canadian cable industry, CTF: Licence Fee Program, and the Nova Scotia Film Development Corporation, Rogers Telefund, the financial participation of Shaw Rocket Fund, and with assistance of the Nova Scotia Film Industry Tax Credit and the Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit.

ZIJI Film & Television Ltd. is a Halifax-based film and television production company founded by Lesley Ann Patten in 1999. The company produces documentaries, performance films, and drama, as well as functioning as an executive producer or co-producer on external productions. ZIJI's hour-long documentary *Loyalties* won the Canada Award at the Gemini Awards, the *Best Social Documentary Award* at Hot Docs, a Yorkton Golden Sheaf Award-winner, and was named among *The Ten Best Documentaries of 2000* at the American Film Institute Festival. Other ZIJI programs include *Warrior Songs – King Gesar*, nominated for a Banff Rockie Award as *Best International Performance Film*, *Voice Set Free*, a Gemini Award-winner for *Best Direction in a Documentary Program*, *Words of My Perfect Teacher*, which premiered at the Vancouver Film Festival, and *Regarding: Cohen*.

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Editors: Please note that **GENERATION XXL** will receive encore broadcasts on CBC Newsworld Sunday, March 11 at 8:00 P.M. ET (9:00 P.M. Atlantic) and again on Friday, March 16 at 8:00 P.M. ET (9:00 P.M. Atlantic).

Support Photography for **GENERATION XXL** is available at:
www.cbc.ca/imagegallery