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Ion heads north of the 'Border'

Network snaps up Canadian dramas

By BRENDAN KELLY

MONTREAL -- Continuing the trend of Canuck TV dramas heading south, "[The Border](#)" and "[The Guard](#)" have been snapped up by U.S. TV network Ion Television, it was announced Tuesday.

Ion inked with Fireworks Intl., the TV distribution division of [ContentFilm](#), for rights to "The Border," about an elite Canuck Immigration and Customs Security Unit that works along the Canadian-U.S. border. It is one of the most popular series on pubcaster CBC and was mentioned as a possible U.S. pickup during last year's writers strike.

In a separate deal with [Lionsgate](#), Ion acquired "The Guard," an action-drama series that follows the members of a Coast Guard search and rescue team working on the Pacific Ocean off the west coast of Canada.

Ion takes all U.S. TV, digital-media, Internet streaming and video-on-demand rights to the shows.

"The Guard," which airs on Global in Canada, is a [Halifax Film](#) and [Brightlight Pictures](#) production.

"The Border" is a White Pines Pictures production, made with CBC, starring [James McGowan](#), Sonia Milos and [Grace Park](#).

In recent months commercial broadcaster CTV's "[Flashpoint](#)" and "[The Bridge](#)" have been picked up by CBS, while another CTV drama, "[The Listener](#)," was acquired by NBC.