

Ion heads north of the 'Border' for skeins

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 deal with Lionsgate, Ion acquired "The Guard," an action-drama series about the members of a Coast Guard search and rescue team working on the Pacific 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.

In related news, Ion has hired Leslie Glenn Chesloff as exec VP of programming, a newly created position.



Canada's "The Border" goes south.

