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10 most influential Hispanic Canadians – 2008

Toronto, ON (November 19, 2008) --- Last night, Scotiabank's 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians 2008 were selected by six hundred people at a ceremony in Toronto. The winners are representatives of a highly educated, fast-growing demographic. Canada's .75 million Hispanics are the country's third largest minority group and their influence is on the rise.

This year's "10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians" were chosen from 37 nominations submitted from across the country using a Dancing with the Stars-style judging process. The original pool was narrowed to twenty finalists by journalists and executives from Globe & Mail, Toronto Star, Canadian Business, CBC, Ottawa's FOCAL, Canadian Council for the Americas, Canadian Hispanic Congress, Hispanic Press Association of Canada and five of last year's winners. The six hundred people in attendance ranked the finalists and their votes were combined with those of the judges to determine the 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians 2008. In alphabetical order by first name, the 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians 2008, are:

- Dr. Bernardo Berdichewsky (Ph.D), Research
- Eduardo Urueña, Media
- Esmeralda Enrique, Dance
- Hon. Guillermo Rishchynski, Diplomacy
- Guillermo Silva-Marin, Opera
- Johnny Campuzano, Law Enforcement
- Margarita Feliciano, Literacy
- Mario Guilombo, Human Rights
- Mario Perez, Entrepreneurship
- Oscar A. Jofre Jr., Entrepreneurship

The event's keynote was Rosemary Bender, Director General of the Social and Demographic Branch at Statistics Canada. Bender presented the results of the eagerly awaited "Profile of the Hispanic Community in Canada" based on the 2006 census conducted by Statistics Canada. According to the study, which was generated at the request of the Canadian Hispanic Congress, there are 741,760 Hispanics in Canada. The study also found that Hispanics are about ten years younger and more likely to be university educated than the general population. Independent research endorsed by the CHC suggests numbers closer to one million.

The awards were presented by Scotiabank and coordinated by www.HispanicBusiness.ca. Other event sponsors included the Toronto Stock Exchange, the Canadian Council for the Americas, Base International, Rogers, Western Union, Andes Travel, and real estate agent Gerardo Perez. Media sponsors included Canadian Business magazine, Nuevo Mundo TV, Telelatino, Cuba Plus, La Guía de Toronto, Correo Canadiense, El Popular, El Mundo Latino News, TorontoHispano.com, Mercado News, Opinion, Latin Life and Abanico.

At the event, HispanicBusiness.ca announced the development of its first "Manual for Hispanic Immigrants / Who's Who in Hispanic Business". Over 25,000 copies of the manual will be printed and distributed, supported by its one hundred members. Discounted membership applications are now open.

The "10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians" 2009 will take place on November 17, 2009 in Toronto. For more information or to obtain a copy of the 2008 Statistics Canada's "Profile of the Hispanic Community in Canada", visit www.HispanicBusiness.ca or contact: Mauricio Ospina, Director "10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians" E: mauricio.ospina@HispanicBusiness.ca

10 hispanos de más influencia en Canadá – 2008

Toronto, ON (19 de noviembre, 2008) --- Seiscientas personas seleccionaron anoche a 10 hispanos de más influencia en Canadá 2008, durante una ceremonia presentada por Scotiabank en Toronto. Los ganadores representan un grupo demográfico altamente educado y que crece rápidamente. Los .75 millones de hispanos en Canadá son considerados el tercer grupo étnico de Canadá y su influencia aumenta en el país.

Los ganadores de este año fueron escogidos de 37 nominaciones recibidas a lo largo y ancho del país. El jurado, compuesto por periodistas y ejecutivos del Globe & Mail, Toronto Star, Canadian Business, CBC, Ottawa's FOCAL, Canadian Council for the Americas, Congreso Hispano Canadiense, Asociación de la Prensa Hispana de Canadá y cinco de los ganadores del año pasado, depuró tal grupo a veinte finalistas. Los diez ganadores fueron seleccionados usando la simple y efectiva fórmula del año pasado: la mitad del puntaje final de cada finalista provino del número asignado por el jurado y la otra mitad del puntaje otorgado por los seiscientos asistentes.

En orden alfabético por su primer nombre, los 10 hispanos de más influencia en Canadá 2008 son:

- Dr. Bernardo Berdichewsky (Ph.D), Investigaciones
- Eduardo Urueña, Comunicaciones
- Esmeralda Enrique, Danza
- Hon. Guillermo Rishchynski, Diplomacia
- Guillermo Silva-Marin, Opera
- Johnny Campuzano, Policía
- Margarita Feliciano, Literatura
- Mario Guilombo, Derechos Humanos
- Mario Perez, Empresariazgo
- Oscar A. Jofre Jr., Empresariazgo

Rosemary Bender, directora de la sección de demografía de Estadísticas Canadá, presentó los resultados del esperado "Perfil de la Comunidad Hispana en Canadá", el cual es basado en el último censo conducido por Estadísticas Canadá en el 2006. De acuerdo al estudio, generado gracias al cabildeo del Congreso Hispano Canadiense, los hispanos son diez años más jóvenes y más propensos a tener educación universitaria que los demás canadienses, están principalmente en el GTA y la gran mayoría han llegado hace menos de veinticinco años. Estudios independientes endorsados por el CHC ponen a la comunidad hispana a cerca de un millón.

Los premios fueron presentados por Scotiabank y coordinados por www.HispanicBusiness.ca. Otros patrocinadores incluyeron a la Bolsa de Valores de Toronto, (TSX), Base International, Canadian Council for the Americas, Rogers, Western Union, Canadian Business magazine, Andes Travel y el agente de bienes raíces de Royal LePage Gerardo Perez. Prensa hispana respaldando tal actividad incluyo a Nuevo Mundo TV, Telelatino, Cuba Plus, La Guía de Toronto, Correo Canadiense, El Popular, El Mundo Latino News, TorontoHispano.com, Mercado News, Opinión, Latin Life y Abanico.

Durante el evento, HispanicBusiness.ca anunció el desarrollo de su primer "Manual para Inmigrantes Hispanos / Quien es Quien el Mundo Empresarial". Más de 25.000 serán impresas y distribuidas, bajo el apoyo de cien miembros fundadores. Las solicitudes de membresía están abiertas con un descuento hasta finales del 2008.

Los 10 hispanos de más influencia en Canadá 2009 se llevara a cabo el 17 de noviembre del 2009 en Toronto.

Para mayor información o para obtener una copia del "Perfil de la Comunidad Hispana en Canadá 2008", favor visitar www.HispanicBusiness.ca o contactar a: Mauricio Ospina, Director "10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians" E: mauricio.ospina@HispanicBusiness.ca

Dr. Bernardo Berdichewsky (Ph.D) British Columbia (Chile)

Dr. Bernardo Berdichewsky (Ph.D) was born in Chile in 1924 of European immigrant parents. He was a professor at the National University of Chile and president of the Chilean Anthropological Association. After the 1973 military coup he came to North America and taught anthropology and sociology at various universities. He lives now in Vancouver where he has taught at Simon Fraser University and Capilano College. When he settled in Vancouver more than three decades ago, he became involved in ethnic and multicultural education on a voluntary basis, particularly with Hispanics, Jewish and Native Peoples. He is past-president of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies – British Columbia chapter and twice member of its National Executive. He was one of the founders of the Latin American Action-Research Centre of B.C. (1979) and of the Canadian Hispanic Congress - B.C. Chapter (1984). Berdichewsky studied as an undergraduate student in Chile and Argentina, and as a graduate student, for four years, in Europe (Germany, France, and Spain) where he obtained his Doctoral degree. He has published ten books, nine brochures and more than eighty professional articles in South and North America, and Europe. He speaks and reads several languages. He received awards from the Canadian Ethno-cultural Council of Ottawa, the Canadian Hispanic Congress, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Ministry of Immigration and the Ministry of Justice, for fighting racism and promoting ethno-cultural pluralism.

Eduardo Urueña, Ontario (Colombia)

Eduardo Urueña arrived in Canada from Colombia in 1972 and studied English while working in the cleaning department at the King Edward Hotel. By 1974 he was Front Desk Assistant Manager with a second job as Construction Safety Inspector at the CN Tower. In 1979, he acquired *El Popular*, a newspaper that used to run twice a week. Today and after 28 years, *El Popular* is a daily employing close to twenty people and also has a digital edition, www.diarioelpopular.com. Dedicated to serve the interest of Hispanics in Canada, *El Popular* enjoys success. An independent survey taken by *Opinion* magazine indicated that 40.7% of people who read newspapers in Spanish prefer *El Popular* over 11 other newspapers. Urueña is founding member of the Hispano-American Soccer League and since 1982 has sponsored the children's tournament "Copa Diario El Popular". He is founding member of the Club de Leones Cervantes, member of the Wilson Lodge A.F.&A.M #86 GRC Masonic League, and former vice president of the Awards Committee at the Inter American Press Association. *El Popular* has received over 25 recognitions and awards for its work, including best "ethnic newspaper" from the Ethnic Press Council of Canada, Award from the Hispanic Development Council (1977), Canadian Ethnic Journalists Award in Excellence, Canadian Friendship Association award for 25 years of service (1995), Ministry of Citizenship award in honour of his commitment to voluntarism, Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration award (1995), and a recognition by the Catholic Children's Aids Society.

Esmeralda Enrique, Ontario (USA/Spain/Mexico)

Choreographer and teacher Esmeralda Enrique, a multiple Dora Award nominee and 2007 winner, has been a driving force of flamenco in Canada for the past 26 years as well as one of the most celebrated flamenco artists in the country. The Dora Awards are presented annually by the Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts. In 1982, Enrique founded the Spanish dance company that bears her name. The company has been hailed as one of Canada's most innovative dance companies. With a history rooted in *flamenco puro* and a strong grasp of classical Spanish dance, her company is renowned for its innovation, versatility and artistic excellence that allows it to present both contemporary and/or classic forms. The company has been producing and presenting full evening concerts since 1990, with an ever-expanding repertoire that has earned both critical and popular acclaim. Also in 1982, she founded the Academy of Spanish Dance. A sound training in flamenco, classical Spanish and regional dance is offered to all students whether they take class for recreation, to gain grace and poise or with the hope of pursuing a professional career. Enrique has offered countless volunteer performances for causes such as Arthritis Society, Lou Gehrig's Disease, Battered Women's Shelters, Aids victims, Children with Autism and Kerry's Place. She also touches younger generations offering scholarships, promoting young talent, and offering apprenticeships to qualified dancers. Besides dancers and choreographers, she employs costume designers, composers, musicians, publicists, graphic artists, stage managers and administrative staff. Her company performs for over 20,000 audience members yearly.

Hon. Guillermo Rishchynski (Panama)

Mr. Guillermo Enrique Rishchynski Oller is Canadian Ambassador to Mexico. Mr. Rishchynski joined the Canadian Foreign Service in 1982, after a career in the private sector in marketing and project management in Africa and Latin America. During the course of his distinguished career as a Canadian diplomat he has served Canada abroad on nine occasions. His most impressive accomplishments overseas include: Canada's Ambassador to Colombia (1999), Canada's Ambassador to Brazil (2005) and currently as Canada's

Ambassador to Mexico (2007). In Ottawa he has held a number of senior positions including Inspector General (2002) of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada and Vice-President for the Americas at the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA - 2003). He was born in Toronto in 1953 of Panamanian and Canadian parents, and was raised in Panama and the United States. He returned to Canada to complete university at McGill University in Quebec, where he obtained an Honours B.A. in Political Science in 1975. He has also undertaken graduate studies at the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University in Ottawa. He speaks English, Spanish, French and Portuguese fluently, and has participated as a speaker and panelist at numerous international conferences. Rishchynski is married to Honduran-born Jeannette Portillo Tinoco, and they have two children: Giselle Marie and Anthony Joseph. His achievement inspires Hispanic Canadians working for the Government of Canada to reach their dreams.

Guillermo Silva-Marin (Puerto Rico)

Since arriving in Canada in 1969. Puerto Rican-born Guillermo Silva-Marin has been advancing the interpretative arts in Canada. He is Founder/General Director, Toronto Operetta Theatre (1985); General Director, Opera in Concert (1994); Founder/ Artistic Director, Summer Opera Lyric Theatre (1988); Lecturer/Stage Director, Opera McGill, McGill University, (1999-2006); Interim Director, Opera McGill (2006-2007); Teacher, Spanish diction, Royal Conservatory of Music (2004-2009); Lecturer, Interpretative Studies, York University. Silva-Marin has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Puerto Rico and a Diploma/Opera School from the University of Toronto. Awards include the Canada Council for the Arts Award, Chalmers Award, "International Who's Who in Music and Musicians' 2008 Directory" and recognition by the Instituto de Cultura de Puerto Rico. He has performed at the NYC Opera, Metropolitan Opera, Casals Festival, Mexico Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Opera Company, Cincinnati Opera, Toronto Symphony, Cork Opera (Ireland). He produced three CD opera recordings for Naxos, the World Premiere of 'Earnest, The Importance of Being', and the World Premiere of Wilson's Kamouraska. Silva-Marin is the only Hispanic in a leadership position in Canada's operatic sector and a role model for young Hispanics. He promoted his musical heritage with performances of Cecilia Valdes by Gonzalo Roig, Marina by Emilio Arrieta, El Barberillo de Lavapies by Francisco Barbieri, and La Revoltosa by Ruperto Chapi. Mentored Hispanic vocalists Arlene Alvarado (Puerto Rico), Yoanna Mesa (Cuba), Emilia Córdova (Colombia), Tamara Rusque (Chile), Nelson Sierra (Colombia), Jaime Estrada (Nicaragua), Edgar Ernesto Ramirez (Mexico), Noel Ramirez (Puerto Rico), Adolfo Casas (Cuba), Francisco Petrozzi (Perú), José Hernández (Spain) and Elia Rico (Spain).

Johnny Campuzano (Ecuador)

Constable Johnny Campuzano has dedicated his life to being a positive role model, leader and team player. He knew what he wanted to achieve from a young age. Armed with a diploma in law enforcement from Sheridan College, in 2001 became a police constable with York Regional Police. He quickly joined the Community Oriented Response Unit specializing as a school liaison officer. In that role, he designed a program called Choices and Consequences to educate students about making healthy lifestyle choices. In 2007, he received the Community Service Award from the York Region District School board for his contribution to student success. Since 2004, Campuzano has been the co-captain for Toys for Tots. This organization collects toys during the holiday season for children of underprivileged families. PC Campuzano is also a Gang Crime Prevention Officer; he mentors, provides intervention programs and organizes events for youth at risk. Since 2005, he has been part of the non-profit mentoring organization Youth Assisting Youth, volunteering his time to mentor an at risk twelve-year-old. He enjoys his job and works with his heart. For the past three years, he has been a member of the Fuerza Latina Community Services board of directors. During the past four months, Campuzano assisted in the planning of Fuerza Latina Charity Gala. The money raised will provide programs for youth in the community.

Margarita Feliciano (Argentina)

Feliciano is a poet, critic and literary translator of Italian-Argentine origin living in Canada and supporting the Hispanic community since 1969. Her poetry has appeared in numerous publications throughout Europe and North America. Her poetic works were the subject of a doctoral thesis to be published by McGill University. She is professor in Hispanic Studies at Glendon College (York University) and Director of CCIE (Celebración Cultural del Idioma Español), an organization that has promoted the Spanish language, cinema, arts and culture in Canada since 1992. In 2005, she founded ANTARES, Canada's first publishing house dedicated to the publication of literary works in Spanish. To date, she has translated seven books (six on poetry and one on Hindu religion). Her research focuses on myths, poetry and translation. Feliciano studied Romance Languages and Literature at Berkeley University and at the University of Florence (Italy). She also specialized in Brazilian literature. She is the coordinator of the Certificate in Translations at Glendon. A tireless volunteer and advocate for the community, her work includes being the coordinator of the Latin American & Caribbean

Studies Program (LACS) and of the Centre for Research on Latin America & the Caribbean (CERLAC) at York University, is past president of the Literary Translators Association of Canada (LTAC), founding member of INDIGO - a trilingual literary magazine dedicated to promote the Hispanic literary works. Feliciano sits on the advisory board of Stong College at York University.

Mario Guilombo (Colombia)

Former Master Ship Colombian marine Mario Guilombo came to Canada in 2001 determined to assist those with no status and to help stop human rights abuses. A lawyer with studies in Social Work and Psychology, Guilombo was a researcher for the book *Job Contract vs. Job Reality*, written by Dr. Rafael Ospina in Colombia. In 2004, he founded Casa de las Americas, a not-for profit that assists immigrants. He led the organization until 2007 and it still runs today. In 2003, he created the corporation Collective Defender of Human Rights for Spanish Speaking People, which succeeded in having a clause to support victims of violence included in the Colombian constitution. This year, he sent a formal petition to help improve Colombia's National Plan of Action, an ambitious 15-year growth plan to be implemented by the government of such country. Guilombo volunteers with the Canadian Human Rights International Support Team (CHRISTEAM) providing free counseling out of a church. Christeam has assisted over 6,000 families from different backgrounds. He is the first Hispanic officer at the Navy League of Canada (NLCC Enterprise # 29) to hold the position of Sub-Lieutenant Training Officer. He has received three recognitions from the navy for teaching children. He is a member of the Canadian Legion and the US-based organization Human Rights First and of the American Civilian Liberties Union. In 2007, he was elected president of the Colombian Liberal Party in Canada to seek favourable treatment for the Colombian community. Guilombo is currently studying forensic sciences at the Stratford Institute. His supporters include the Hons. Judy Sgro, Sergio Marchi and Alan Tonks.

Mario Perez (Cuba)

Mario's story reads like the script of a Hollywood movie. Seeking a better life for his family, this Cuban university professor and software developer began his Canadian journey in 1992, homeless at a Salvation Army shelter. Getting on his feet by doing odd jobs, Mario's incredible determination soon led him to develop software for organizations like Nestle and the US embassy. In 1997, with a business venture loan from the Government of Canada, Mario boldly started a software company, landing consulting engagements with AT&T. In 1999, Mario's resolve was once again on display when he became a founding member of Yak Communications, while in recovery from cancer. Through the experience, Mario gained a new appreciation for life and the outdoors, which Mario cultivated by volunteering at the Sierra Club. Yak had a successful IPO on NASDAQ with a market cap of over 100M. Mario used this platform to provide opportunities for young Hispanics to learn entrepreneurship and software development working alongside him. In 2003, Mario's visionary status in the industry was cemented by the unveiling of Telax Hosted Call Center, his revolutionary approach to call centre technology. Under Mario's leadership, Telax grew to become the largest dedicated Canadian service provider with clients like Industry Canada, Health Canada, WSIB, and US Federal and State Governments. Mario is now an avid sailor having placed 2nd and 3rd in the grueling the Lake Ontario 300. His incredible life continues to serve as an inspiration to his team, reminding us that with love and determination, anything is possible.

Oscar A. Jofre Jr. (Chile)

Entrepreneur and IT innovator Oscar Jofre developed a voice imprint technology for the legal, medical and dental professions - leading to the creation of the largest value-added reseller network for voice and speech support products in North America. He came to Canada in 1975 and has since accumulated 22 years of senior management experience. As founder of Ottawa-based Babel Fish, he built and led a team of over 135 individuals in providing high-tech multilingual solutions to 7,600 contractors around the world. He co-founded the Canadian Network of Language Industries and sat on the steering committee of the federal government's Language Industry Technology Roadmap. He is the only Canadian on the United Nations's MIT Digital Nations, a research consortium that seeks to address major social challenges in underserved communities. In 2004, Jofre launched BoardSuite™, a product adopted in beta format by more than 500 companies as a board portal solution designed to meet the governance and compliance needs of SMEs and not-for-profits. With 16 employees in Canada, the company plans to grow to thirty by year-end. BoardSuite is Jofre's fifth start-up in what he calls his mission to humanize technology. Recently, the company won approval on Business News Network's Squeeze Play, an online newscaster. Jofre has appeared on BNN, CTV, CBC and other media. He has written three patents, one in the voice recognition industry and two in workflow process. His company was also nominated to Ernst & Young's "Companies to Watch for". He currently sits on the following boards: BoardSuite Corp, CorpTropolis Corp, OSOLOS Ventures Inc.