

2009 RBC CANADIAN WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR AWARD ANNOUNCES FINALISTS TODAY

TORONTO, OCTOBER 15th, 2009 – Women of Influence Inc. is pleased to announce the names of the 15 finalists of the 2009 RBC Canadian Woman Entrepreneur Awards (CWEA) program.

This annual event recognizes women entrepreneurs from across Canada who make increasing contributions to the local, Canadian and global economy. All nominees share a strong entrepreneurial vision, a relentless passion in pursuing their dreams, and have become positive role models for the young women of today.

The 2009 RBC Canadian Woman Entrepreneur Awards Finalists are:

Deloitte Start-Up Award

Georgia Lloyd, Always Home
Julie Bond, Bond Consultants
Maureen Lucas, Lucas Works

HKMB HUB INTERNATIONAL Impact Award

Anita Gupta, NMI Tax Consultants
Edie Weiss, Radke Films
Tina Bax, Culture Works

RBC Momentum Award

Johanna Elliot, Ocean Entertainment Ltd.
Julie Cole, Mabel's Labels
Melanie Rego, Elevators Communication

BELL Trailblazer Award

Cora Tsouflidou, Chez Cora's
Neena Kanwar, KMH
Wendy Neidhart, Advantage Health

PROFIT Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship

Anne Kaplan, Medicard Finance Inc
Connie Clerici, Closing the Gap
Jill Anderson, Aecometric Corporation

Over 1500 women entrepreneurs were nominated for the Awards, the highest number of nominations since the creation of the program. Candidates had to complete a thorough application to be considered. And all qualifying applications were reviewed by the prominent Canadian judges, including successful female business leaders from across the country. Following the due diligence process completed by Deloitte's Private Client Services, the winners will be selected by the judges and recognized at the Awards Gala on December 8, 2009.

The five award winners will be honoured at the annual Gala Dinner on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ontario. Diane Francis, Editor-at-Large, National Post and Barbara Stymiest, Chief Operating Officer, RBC Royal Bank and will co-serve as Hosts for the evening. **“It is vital to recognize and celebrate the successes of women among their peers”, says Carolyn Lawrence, President, Women of Influence Inc. “We believe that building awareness around the successes of Canada’s female entrepreneurs will provide these growing companies with the right leverage and key opportunities to increase their chances of success and resulting contribution to the Canadian economy”.**

About the RBC Canadian Woman Entrepreneur Awards

The RBC Canadian Women Entrepreneur Awards are the pre-eminent national business awards recognizing the country's leading female entrepreneurs. The awards are an initiative of Women of Influence Inc., an award-winning organization dedicated to advancing and fulfilling the needs of Canadian women in business. Women of Influence Inc. leads many national women's initiatives including the Women of Influence Luncheon Series and Young Women of Influence Evening Series. For more information, visit www.womenofinfluenceinc.ca or www.theawards.ca

-30-

To book an interview with one of the entrepreneurs listed above, or for more information on the program, contact:

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