



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Women of Influence Luncheon Series Celebrates Success of Canadian Women with four more leaders on speaker roster**

*President Carolyn Lawrence available for International Women's Day commentary*

Toronto, March 7, 2008- In the spirit of International Women's Day on March 8<sup>th</sup>—a day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women—the **Women of Influence (WOI) Luncheon Series** presents additional female leaders to its existing speaker lineup of fascinating and influential role models.

“International Women's Day recognizes the challenges facing women today and serves as a reminder to celebrate the achievements of those who've broken global barriers,” said Carolyn Lawrence, President, The Powerpoint Group, which produces the speaker series.

Focusing on the realities of today, recent speakers at the Women of Influence luncheons offer relevant advice to all women:

- ◆ If you believe something, stand up and fight for it. Force people to re-evaluate the situation. (Lorie Kane on January 23)
- ◆ The key to success is: Women need to engage in active networking. (Francoise Bertrand on February 22)
- ◆ Individual engagement with the community can truly be effective in changing the world and it is our moral responsibility. (Dr. Anne Golden on February 26)

In addition to Lorie Kane, Francoise Bertrand, Dr. Anne Golden, the previously announced Caryn Lerner (Calgary, March 12) and Debbie Travis (Toronto, April 11), other top influential speakers now rounding out the 2008 first six-month lineup for the Women of Influence Luncheons across Canada are:

- Daisy Chin-Lor, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer, Birks and Mayer Inc, in Vancouver, April 1;
- Beverly McLachlin, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, in Ottawa, April 8;
- Ruth Ramsden Wood, President and CEO, United Way Calgary and Area, in Calgary, May 8;
- Sherry Cooper, Executive Vice President and Global Economic Strategist, BMO Financial Group Chief Economist, BMO Capital Markets, in Toronto, June 5.

Catering to the ongoing professional and personal achievement of Canadian women in business, the **Women of Influence Luncheon Series** has profiled over 150 accomplished Canadian women- among them Roberta Bondar, Kim Campbell, Heather Reisman, Sonja Smits, and Belinda Stronach- and inspired over 500, 000 attendees through its distinct program.

The Women of Influence Luncheon Series provides a forum for attendees to share, learn, and network among like-minded women. With the busy schedules of many Canadian businesswomen, getting inspired over lunch is a perfect fit. “We really emphasize ‘networking’ as a key element of career development, and we believe women often neglect this because of time constraints and family commitments,” notes Lawrence. “So, we fit it into her workday, over an inspiring lunch”.

#### **About Women of Influence Luncheon Series**

Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the **Women of Influence Luncheon Series** brings together Canadian businesswomen through a series of luncheons complete with highly-regarded guest speakers. With a wide range of influential Canadian women sharing their experiences and advice, the luncheons offer the opportunity to learn, entertain, share and network. Originally launched in Toronto by **The Powerpoint Group**, the program has since expanded to include Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa, and a French speaking series in Montreal.

To attend the **Women of Influence Luncheon Series**, guests may register by calling: Toronto (416) 923-1688, Montreal (514) 521-8700, Toll Free: 1 (800) 354-3303.

#### **About The Powerpoint Group**

**The Powerpoint Group** is an event and marketing communications firm that has been specializing in women since 1994. Originally created to fulfill the needs of the Canadian business women, **The Powerpoint Group** has since launched a series of events focused on creating opportunities for women to inspire and guide each other towards success. Such events include the **Women of Influence Luncheon, the Canadian Woman Entrepreneur Awards and the Women of Influence Golf Tournaments**.

The **Powerpoint Group** also offers event management services and marketing consulting. With the objective of being “the voice of influential women”, **The Powerpoint Group** helps clients efficiently access the women’s market. [www.powerpointgroup.com](http://www.powerpointgroup.com)

-30-

#### **Media**

For more information, to request attendance to cover a Women of Influence luncheon, or for interview opportunities with President Carolyn Lawrence, please contact:

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