

BELINDA STRONACH

Canadian National Committee for UN Women, Honorary Tribute to Ms. Belinda Stronach

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The Canadian National Committee for UN Women is pleased to announce that this year the National Committee will bestow its Honorary Tribute to Ms. Belinda Stronach and Ms. Joy Smith, MP Kildonan – St. Paul at a special luncheon ceremony on October 3, 2011 at the Rideau Club in Ottawa. The ceremony will be attended by special guest Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women and hosted by MP Justin Trudeau and Sophie Gregoire.

"National Committees for UN Women are independent non-governmental organizations that are our key partners present in 18 countries. We greatly appreciate their commitment in supporting our work and mandate of advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women. The Canadian National Committee for UN Women is part of this important network of supporters working tirelessly with partners, including civil society, corporate and academic entities to raise awareness about UN Women's mandate and work around the world. I wish the Canadian National Committee all the success in implementing its advocacy initiatives and fundraising efforts. I look forward to attending the luncheon and offer my congratulations to the National Committee's Honorary Tribute recipients." said Ms. Bachelet.

The UN Women National Committee, Canada Honorary Tribute is bestowed annually on a Canadian who exemplifies the National Committee's commitment to gender equality and who has made significant and continued contributions to the advancement of women's empowerment both in Canada and abroad. Previous recipients of the award include the Honourable Mich elle Jean, former Governor General of Canada, author and activist Sally Armstrong, and Senator Pamela Wallin.

Ms. Stronach is being honoured for her extensive efforts on gender and humanitarian issues through The Belinda Stronach Foundation (TBSF), which funds a wide spectrum of programs supporting women and girls through partnerships across the public and private sectors. She is also the co-chair of the Spread the Net / Malaria No More! initiative and The Belinda Stronach Chair in Breast Cancer Reconstructive Surgery.

"In partnership with organizations like the UN Women National Committee, Canada, we are making progress toward the economic and political empowerment of girls and women in Canada and abroad. However, much more needs to be done and I remain committed to supporting thoughtful, strategic and innovative ways to empower girls and women so they can help build strong and stable communities and countries. It is an honour to be a recipient of this award and I accept it on behalf of the millions of girls and women around the world who struggle every day to realize their full potential," said Belinda Stronach.

A second honour will be presented to the Honourable Joy Smith, MP Kildonan – St. Paul, in recognition of her contributions to gender equality through her advocacy of anti-trafficking legislature. "The UN Women National Committee, Canada has and continues to undertake the crucial role of promoting gender equality for women and girls in Canada. As a Member of Parliament and anti-human trafficking advocate, I am honoured to be a recipient of the 2011 UN Women National Committee, Canada Honorary Tribute. The Annual UN Women National Committee Canada Luncheon will be an important opportunity to celebrate the successes of gender equality and to support the ongoing efforts of National Committee," stated Ms. Smith.

Almas Jiwani, President of the UN Women National Committee, Canada stated, "Ms. Stronach and Ms. Smith epitomize the qualities of true humanitarians. Their contributions are impressive marks of visionary business and public leaders deeply concerned with broader gender issues. We are pleased and honoured to recognize them with this year's honours."

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About UN Women

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. It stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on five priority areas: increasing women's leadership and participation; ending violence against women; engaging women in all aspects of peace and security processes; enhancing women's economic empowerment; and making gender equality central to national development planning and budgeting. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.

About the UN Women National Committee, Canada

The UN Women National Committee, Canada raises UN Women's profile and promotes its work in Canada; raises funds for UN Women projects; creates awareness within the Canadian government for increased funding for UN Women projects; and encourages non-governmental organizations to promote and support UN Women's mandate and initiatives.