



For immediate release

2009 ICCT Business Excellence Award Winners Announced

Six outstanding leaders honoured by the Italian-Canadian business community

TORONTO – March 2, 2009 - Winners of the 7th annual Italian Chamber of Commerce of Toronto **Business Excellence Awards (BEA)** were announced today in Toronto. The awards are presented to the most outstanding and innovative leaders from the business community each year.

The 2009 Business Excellence Award winners are:

- Business Excellence Award: **Mr. Toni Varone**, Varone Group
- New Generation Award: **Mr. Alex Rechichi & Mr. Mark Rechichi**, Extreme Brandz Inc.
- Community Building Award: **Ms. Frances Lankin**, United Way Toronto
- Arts and Culture Award: **Mr. Franco Mirabelli**, Mirabelli
- Scotiabank ICCT Environmental Leadership Award: **Mr. Tony Verrelli**, Cleanfield Energy Corp.

“We are extremely proud to recognize and celebrate these individuals for their contributions to Ontario’s economy and to the Italian-Canadian community as well. This year, we have also included recognition of our community’s integration within the multi-cultural fabric of our society with the Community Building Award.”
– George Visintin, President, ICCT.

“Our awards often recognize areas where business acumen and sense of history permeate the activity of entrepreneurship. The ICCT is the meeting point of entrepreneurial creativity associated with social and cultural commitment. That’s the reason why last year we decided to introduce the Environmental Leadership Award, which recognizes the importance of the business community’s responsibility to environmental stewardship. This year, with the introduction of the Community Leadership Award, the ICCT wants to highlight the social responsibility of Ontario’s leaders.” – Corrado Paina, Executive Director, ICCT.

The awards will be presented at a gala dinner at the Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex on **Wednesday, May 13, 2009**. More than 600 guests, including many business, political and cultural leaders from the Greater Toronto area are expected to be in attendance at the event.


What: 2009 ICCT Business Excellence Awards Gala Dinner

When: Wednesday, May 13, 2009 at 7pm; Cocktail at 5:45pm

Where: Liberty Grand Entertainment Complex, Exhibition Place, Toronto

Website: www.italchambers.ca

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The 2009 ICCT Business Excellence Awards is sponsored by:  **Scotiabank**

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For more information or to purchase tickets for the BEA Gala, contact Elena Dell’Osbel at: dellosbel@italchambers.ca or 416-789-7169 x 28

ABOUT ICCT

The Italian Chamber of Commerce of Toronto’s mission is to promote economic and cultural synergies worldwide – between business, government and individuals, with special emphasis on Italy, Ontario and the GTA.