

November 9, 2007

## **HSBC Bank Canada donates \$150,000 to support internationally trained immigrants**

**Calgary, Alberta** — Dr. Maria Eriksen, President, Immigrant Access Fund Society of Alberta (IAF), today announced HSBC Bank Canada's generous donation of \$150,000. IAF will use the funds to provide loans to internationally trained immigrants to help them gain employment in their respective fields.

“As part of ‘The world's local bank,’ HSBC Bank Canada recognizes the challenges newcomers from around the world face as they settle in a new country. We are pleased to support the IAF to help immigrants reach their full potential as Canadians and to contribute their talents and skills to their local communities,” said Mr. Dino Medves, Senior Vice President, Western Region, HSBC Bank Canada. “To further help newcomers, HSBC Bank Canada has recently launched *HSBC Passport*, an account package designed specifically for new immigrants and foreign workers in Canada to meet their unique financial service needs.”

“With support from HSBC Bank Canada, we can provide immigrants to Alberta with the resources to pursue their dreams and capitalize on their education, training and experience,” said Dr. Eriksen. “The fund helps internationally trained immigrants resume their careers in the fields for which they have been educated and trained, eventually finding meaningful employment and building better lives for themselves and their families.”

HSBC Bank Canada, a subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc, has more than 170 offices and is the leading international bank in Canada. With around 10,000 offices in 83 countries and territories and assets of US\$2,150 billion at 30 June 2007, the HSBC Group is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organizations.

Immigrant Access Fund has so far given loans to 76 immigrants to help with the costs of becoming accredited or certified so that they may work in their field in Alberta. IAF has partnered with Momentum in Calgary and the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers in Edmonton to administer the loans. To date, Immigrant Access Fund has raised more than \$2 million. All loaned funds are donated by private sector organizations and individuals.

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