



News Release

MPs and Immigrant Community Leaders celebrate Citizenship Week with The Dominion Institute

Passages to Canada initiative profiles achievements of Canada's most prominent immigrants

Ottawa, October 16, 2007 – MPs, Senators and immigrant community leaders will gather tonight at the National Press building (6pm) to mark Citizenship Week with an appreciation event hosted by the Dominion Institute's *Passages to Canada* program – the country's preeminent immigration storytelling initiative.

Secretary of State Jason Kenney, Multiculturalism and Canadian Identity, will provide remarks from the Government of Canada while MP Peter Stoffer, member of the Passages to Canada Speaker's Bureau, will share his thoughts on visiting classrooms to talk about his immigrant experience. The event will also include a performance by local gospel group, *Voices of Praise*.

"The program offers an unprecedented opportunity for students, educators and employers to understand the complexities of the immigrant experience through first-hand testimonials," says Passages to Canada Coordinator Eliana Busheikin. "This understanding is critical to creating an environment of inclusion for all Canadians."

More than 600 of Canada's most prominent immigrants share first-hand accounts of their compelling journeys to Canada with youth, business leaders and new Canadians through the program. Key members of the Speakers' Bureau include: UNESCO Ambassador Kim Phuc, Sergeant Baltej Singh Dhillon, RCMP, and more than 20 immigrant Ministers and Members of Parliament.

Rudyard Griffiths, Executive Director of the Dominion Institute states, "Citizenship Week provides an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect on our shared values. It is an appropriate time to express our appreciation to the sponsors, Members of Parliament and immigrant community leaders who have made significant contributions to making this program the success that it is. We are very proud to be working with a number of committed partners, including the TD Bank Financial Group, on this unique initiative."

The Dominion Institute a charitable organization devoted to building active and informed citizens through greater knowledge and appreciation of the Canadian story. The Passages to Canada program is the Institute's national immigration program, supported by ongoing funding from the Department of Citizenship and Immigration Canada, and the TD Bank Financial Group. Visit www.dominion.ca and www.passagestocanada.com

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