

Scotiabank shows strong commitment to local women's organizations with a donation to the YWCA and YES

Belize City, March 8, 2007 – Scotiabank today announced a donation of BZ\$2,950 to the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), and BZ\$3,000 to the Youth Enhancement Services (YES) to support their work on behalf of young girls and women in Belize. These donations are part of a regional initiative by Scotiabank to celebrate and support International Women's Day, which takes place on March 8th, 2007.

"Wherever there is a Scotiabank presence around the world, there is a strong culture of community involvement," said Pat Andrews, Managing Director of Scotiabank Belize. "We're proud to present these donations to the YWCA and YES in support of the important work they do in Belize."

The funds donated to the YWCA will specifically support their Helping Early Leavers Programme (H.E.L.P.), whose primary goal is to provide a learning environment for girls who want to continue their education but are unable to do so due to economic or academic obstacles.

The funds donated to YES will be channeled towards their Advocacy Program, which brings much needed awareness to sexual abuse and the exploitation of young girls and women throughout the country.

Across the Caribbean, Central America and Latin America, the donations made this week will help empower local women's organizations, working in fields such as healthcare, education and social services.

"We are proud to honour International Women's Day with our commitment to women's charities in the communities and countries we call home," said Sylvia Chrominska, Executive Vice-President, Human Resources and Public, Corporate and Government Affairs, Scotiabank. "With more than 70 per cent of Scotiabank's employees being women, we take a keen interest in the advancement of women globally across the Scotiabank Group."

It is this dedication to promoting and empowering women that earned Scotiabank the 2007 Catalyst Award. The Award, to be presented in New York City on March 21, will recognize Scotiabank for its corporate initiatives that support the recruitment, development and advancement of women.

Scotiabank is committed to supporting the communities in which we live and work, both in Canada and abroad. Recognized as a leader internationally and among Canadian corporations for its charitable donations and philanthropic activities, in 2006 the Bank provided more than CDN\$42 million in sponsorships and donations to a variety of projects and initiatives, primarily in the areas of healthcare, education and social services. Visit Scotiabank International at www.scotiabank.com or Scotiabank Belize at www.belize.scotiabank.com

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