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MEDIA RELEASE

**Scotiabank Co-Chairs Employer Council of Champions**

Ottawa, March 9, 2011 – Hire Immigrants Ottawa is pleased to announce Dennis Jackson, District Vice-President for the Ottawa & West Quebec division of Scotiabank, as Co-Chair of the Employer Council of Champions (ECC). He will serve with Hicham Adra, Senior Vice President and General Manager, National Capital Region, CGI

“The work of an initiative like Hire Immigrants Ottawa and its Employer Council of Champions is important in supporting workplaces to understand the challenges inherent in a changing workforce and in providing them with the tools, strategies and programs to maximize these opportunities” said Mr. Jackson in accepting the position at the ECC Summit on Wednesday.

The ECC is a cross-sector council consisting of senior executives from leading Ottawa employers, influential business associations, and labour groups, who have taken the lead in championing the effective workforce integration of internationally trained immigrants in skills-appropriate positions.

“As Canada’s most international bank with more than 67,000 employees in some 50 countries around the world, Scotiabank is committed to building an inclusive workforce that reflects the communities we serve,” added Mr. Jackson. “We know that employees benefit from this diversity, and develop stronger skill sets from this collection of differing perspectives.”

A past chair of the board of directors of the United Way Ottawa, Mr. Jackson has also been a member of the ECC since it was launched in 2007.

He replaces past ECC Co-Chair, Rosemarie Leclair, President and CEO, Hydro Ottawa Group of Companies.

**About Hire Immigrants Ottawa**

Hire Immigrants Ottawa (HIO) is a community-based initiative that brings together employers, immigrant agencies, and other stakeholders to enhance employers’ ability to access the talents of skilled immigrants in the Ottawa area. The initiative was launched in 2006 in response to a growing need to identify and address barriers faced by employers in the hiring and integration of skilled immigrants into the labour force. The project is funded by the Government of Ontario and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.

- 30 -

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