Women's Executive Network announces Canada’s Most Powerful Women in 2009

Top 100™ Awards recognizes top achievers from across Canada

TORONTO, Nov. 30 /CNW/ - The Women's Executive Network (WXN)(TM) is pleased to announce the recipients of the prestigious 2009 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100(TM) Awards, representing each region of the country. Co-presented by Scotiabank Group and KPMG, the Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards have become one of Canada's most recognizable honours bestowed on the country's highest achieving women leaders in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. Selected for recognition by an independent advisory board, the Awards span eight categories: Corporate Executives, Entrepreneurs, Public Sector Leaders, Trailblazers & Trendsetters, Champions, Professionals, Future Leaders and Arts & Communications.

From British Columbia, winners include Fiona Brinkman, professor, Dept. of molecular Biology and BioChemistry, Simon Fraser University; Annalisa King, CFO and vice president, Best Buy Canada Ltd.; Olga Ilich, president, Suncor Development Corporation; Jane Bird, CEO, Canada Line Rapid Transit Inc.; Catherine Boivie, CEO Inventure Solutions, SVP, IT, Vancity; Christine Day, CEO, Lululemon Athletica Inc.; Debra Hewson, president and CEO, Odlum Brown Ltd.; Audrey Ho, SVP, general counsel & corporate secretary, TELUS; Sally Thorne, Professor and director, University of British Columbia, School of Nursing; Bev van Ruyven, EVP, Customer care and conservation, BC Hydro; Tamara Vrooman, CEO, Vancity; Mat Wilcox, CEO and founder, Wilcox Group; and Jessica McDonald, former Deputy Minister to the Premier and Head of BC Public Service, British Columbia Public Service.

From Alberta, winners include Sherri Brillon, EVP, Strategic Planning and portfolio management, EnCana Corporation; Lesley Conway, president, Hopewell Residential Communities Inc.; Priscilla Ng, marketing consultant, Intact Insurance, Western division; Leslie O'Donoghue, Chief Legal Officer, SVP, Business development, Agrium Inc.; Dr. Arlene Ponting, physician, Science Alberta Foundation; Lakshmi Raj, Co-CEO, Replicon Inc.; Laurel Wood, EVP, Advisory Services, Meyers Norris Penny LLP; JudyLynn Archer, president and CEO, Women Building Futures; and Indira Samarasekera, president and vice-chancellor, University of Alberta.

From Saskatchewan, winners include Vianne Timmons, president and vice-chancellor, University of Regina; Shelley Brown, managing partner, Saskatchewan/Assurance & Advisory, Deloitte & Touche LLP; and Kim Weimer, president & CEO, Fastener Warehouse Ltd.

From Yukon, the winner is Pamela Hine, Deputy Minister, Education, Yukon Government.

From Ontario, winners include Melania Chwyl, PhD student, University of Toronto; Lisette (Lee) McDonald, president & CEO, Southmedic Incorporated, Hon. Jean Augustine P.C., Commissioner, Office of the Fairness Commissioner; Sonia Baxendale, SEVP, CIBC and president, CIBC Retail Markets; Andrea Belvedere, outgoing president, SIFE Ryerson, founder and president, SAGE Canada; VP Business Development, Ryerson Entrepreneur Institute, Ryerson University - Ted Rogers School of Management and Ryerson Entrepreneur Institute; Melanie Berry, president, Canadian Academy of
Winners from Québec include Dawn Graham, president, Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.; Sylvie Paquette, SVP & GM, Property and Casualty Insurance, CPP Investment Board; Dana Ades-Landy, SVP national accounts, commercial banking, Laurentian Bank; Karyn Brooks, SVP & Controller BCE & Bell, Bell Canada; Marie-Huguette Cormier, EVP, communications, Desjardins Group; Rita deSantis, partner, Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP; Céline Galioupeau, Journaliste-présentatrice, Chef d’antenne, Radio-Canada; Anne-Marie Hubert, managing partner, advisory services, Ernst & Young LLP; Heather Munroe-Blum, principal and vice-chancellor, McGill University; Louise Roy, Guest fellow and Chair of the Leadership for Tomorrow Forum, Center for Interuniversity Research and Analysis on Organizations (CIRANO); France Roy Maffei, SVP, operations, retail & commercial banking, National Bank Financial Group; Lise Watier, founder and Co-Chairman of the Board, Lise Watier Cosmetiques; Judith Woodsworth, president and vice-chancellor, Concordia University; and Kathleen Zicat, SVP, sales and service, Retail Banking, National Bank Financial Group.

From New Brunswick, the winner is Aldéa Landry, president, Landal Inc.
From Nova Scotia, winners include Christine Power, president & CEO, Capital District Health Authority; and Heather Tulk, SVP, customer services, Bell Aliant.

To date, 460 women across Canada have received this distinction, including 62 women who have gone on to be inducted into the Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Hall of Fame(TM).

The Top 100 Awards will be distributed at an evening gala comprised of winners, future leaders, and Fortune 100 leaders. Award Winners and Hall of Fame inductees will also be honoured in their own communities of Vancouver on January 21, Calgary on January 26 and Montréal on February 25, 2010.

"We applaud the many accomplishments of our very deserving winners from across the country, all of whom achieved their successes in spite of this year's difficult financial climate," said Pamela Jeffrey, founder, Women's Executive Network. "This year's winners are now part of an amazing group of women, many of whom will go on to become mentors in our WXNWisdom programs. We thank them for their contributions and hope they will continue to inspire others through hard work and mentorship."

Other partners of this year's Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards and Summit include Platinum partners Cisco, Richard Ivey School of Business, TELUS and The Globe and Mail. Gold partners include DHR Executive Search, Mercedes-Benz, Ogilvy Renault, TD Bank Financial Group and TransCanada. The event benefits the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

The list of 2009 Winners is available at www.wxnetwork.com.

About the Women's Executive Network
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The Women's Executive Network (WXN) is Canada's most influential female audience and the country's leading organization dedicated to the advancement and recognition of executive-minded women in the workplace. Since 1997, WXN has expanded rapidly to meet the needs of the growing number of female managers and executives across Canada. In the fall of 2008, WXN launched in Ireland, a first step in creating an international community of women leaders. More information and membership details are available at www.wxnetwork.com.

For further information: visuals or to arrange an interview with any of the Top 100 winners, sponsors of Pamela Jeffrey of WXN, please contact Renee Lalonde, Danika Lochhead or Susan Willemsen at The Siren Group Inc. Tel: (416) 926-8087, Fax: (416) 926-9712, E-mail: info@thesirengroup.com or www.thesirengroup.com