

MEDIA ADVISORY - REMINDER

Celebrating Women, Health and Equality **on the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day**

A special luncheon on March 8th, 2011
featuring the Honourable Rona Ambrose, Dr. Huguette Labelle, Dr. André Lalonde, Ms. Allison Fisher and Ms. Maureen McTeer

OTTAWA (Ontario), 1 March 2011 – On March 8, 2011, the world will celebrate the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. To commemorate this monumental occasion, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood and the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health are bringing Canadians together for a special luncheon in celebration of women, health and equality.

Ms. Maureen McTeer, the Canadian representative of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, will speak to the importance of this event and of International Women's Day.

The **Honourable Rona Ambrose**, Minister responsible for the Status of Women, will speak to the government's ongoing commitment to improving the health of women and girls here in Canada and around the world.

Dr. Huguette Labelle, Chancellor of the University of Ottawa, will speak to the challenges of international development, health & education for women.

Dr. Jennifer Blake, Chair of the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health, will introduce a generous grant made by TD Bank Group in support of women's health.

Ms. Christine Stevens, Associate Vice-President of TD Canada Trust, will present a special contribution to the CFWH, supporting the training of health-care professionals specialized in women's sexual and reproductive health.

Ms. Allison Fisher, Executive Director of the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health, will share her organization's plans for the new Mamawi Centre expansion also being supported by a portion of the funds raised through this luncheon.

Dr. André Lalonde, Executive Vice-President of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada, will provide insight into the Society's International Women's Health program, with a particular focus on the Croix-des-Bouquets Maternity Centre project in Haiti being supported by a portion of the funds raised through this luncheon.

Ms. Catherine Clark, host of CPAC's *Beyond Politics*, will serve as emcee for this prestigious event.

Around the world on International Women's Day, people will be taking part in various initiatives to highlight efforts to improve the lives of girls and women, and to celebrate the numerous achievements for women, health and equality. The year 2010 was especially important for putting the issue of maternal health on the agenda of world leaders and for gaining increased support and commitments for improving the rights and health of mothers and newborns. We have much to celebrate and also much to do to prepare for another 100 years of progress.

Please join in the celebration by sharing this important event and the messages of our key speakers with your viewers, listeners and readers. For more information about this sold out event, visit the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health website at www.cfwh.org.

Date: 8 March 2011

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: National Arts Centre, Panorama Room, Ottawa

Media Relations:

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About the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC)

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) is one of Canada's oldest national specialty organizations. Established in 1944, the Society's mission is to promote excellence in the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology and to advance the health of women through leadership, advocacy, collaboration, outreach and education. The SOGC represents obstetricians/gynaecologists, family physicians, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals working in the field of sexual reproductive health. For more information, visit www.sogc.org.

About the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA)

The WRA is a global organization active in over 150 countries worldwide, working to save the lives of the hundreds of thousands of women and girls who die needlessly each year from preventable causes in pregnancy and birth. The WRA is one of the many international organizations that successfully lobbied to make maternal health and wellbeing a priority in global fora, and its members continue to work with governments and other agencies to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. To become a member, or for more information on the WRA, visit www.whiteribbonalliance.org.

About the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health (CFWH)

The Canadian Foundation for Women's Health is Canada's national not-for-profit fundraising foundation for women's reproductive health. With the support of individuals, medical organizations and companies, the CFWH has been funding research that is improving "health between the hips" for Canadian women at every stage of their lives for over ten years. Along with the increased funding for research on women's health, the Foundation also fosters support for international women's health programs. For more information, visit www.cfwh.org.