

Spotlight:

Canadian Women Light Up the Global Stage

Make Your Exporting Views Known

The Minister of International Trade's Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Advisory Board, which meets twice annually, includes a number of women who represent the views of women exporters. Shown here at the September 2008 meeting in Montreal are [l to r] Susan Baka, President, Bay Communications & Marketing Inc.; Jill Bodkin, Chair and CEO, Golden Heron Enterprises; Louise Léger, Director General, Trade Commissioner Service - Client Services; Isabel Alexander, President, Phancorp Inc.; Monika Gagnon, Managing Director, Plastiques Gagnon Inc.; the current Chair of the Board Catharine Devlin, President of Devlin Inc.; and observer Mary Anderson, President, I.E.Canada. [Absent from photo: Kathryn From, Co-owner, Bravado! Designs; Corinne Pohlmann, Vice President, Canadian Federation of Independent Business; and Shirley-Ann George, Vice President, International Canadian Chamber of Commerce].

If you have issues or concerns about exporting that you would like to bring to the attention of the Board, contact the Consultations and Liaison Division at: consultations@international.gc.ca



Women's Trade Champions Celebrated at Gala

Mary Anderson [centre], President of the Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters (I.E.Canada), was the recipient of the 2008 JoAnna Townsend Award presented by the Organization of Women in International Trade-Toronto (www.owit-toronto.ca) in recognition of her trade advocacy work for women and her leadership in the international trade community. She is flanked by **Sabine Schleese** [left], Managing Director, Schleese Saddlery Service Ltd., and **Samantha Kane**, Founder and Principal of technology consulting firm Kane-MacKay & Associates Ltd., who both received Woman Exporter of the Year awards in recognition of their export successes and contribution to advancing the image of women in global business. OWIT-Toronto launched the awards in 2004 in memory of **JoAnna Townsend**, former DFAIT employee and a champion of women exporters.

Canada-U.S. Trade Advocate Honoured

The celebration of Woman of the Year **Pamela Davis Heilman** [left], a long-time advocate for the advancement of women in business and a senior partner at the law firm Hodgson Russ LLP, with offices in the U.S. and Canada, was among the highlights of the Organization of Women in International Trade (www.owit.org) 17th Annual World Conference in Monterrey, Mexico in October 2008. The award honours a woman who has advanced international trade through excellence and innovation. In her career, Ms. Heilman has actively supported pivotal trade events for women like the first Canada-U.S. Women's Trade Summit. "How great it is to be from the U.S., to have been nominated by Canadians and to receive the award here in Mexico," Ms. Heilman said when accepting the award at the ceremony, attended by Canada's Consul General in Monterrey, Bertrand Desjardins. "I cannot think of a better tribute to the true meaning and spirit of what NAFTA is all about and what it has achieved for our respective economies," added Ms. Heilman. Pictured at right with her are members from the nominating OWIT-Toronto chapter - **Alma Farias** [centre] and **Gail Morris** [r] of Trade Partners (www.tradepartners.ca), who conducted business matching for the Women's Trade Mission to Monterrey coinciding with the OWIT conference.



Women Recognized for Making a Difference

Over 100 accomplished women business leaders from around the world gathered in Toronto for The International Alliance for Women (TIAW) Global Partnership Forum in November 2008 (www.tiaw.org). The event honoured 50 exceptional women worldwide with its inaugural World of Difference awards, including [l-r] **Francine Whiteduck**, **Patricia Pape**, **Dana Peebles**, and 11 others from Canada. These awards recognize unsung heroines, whose efforts have advanced the economic empowerment of women.

Western Exporter One of Canada's Top Entrepreneurs

Baljit Gill, Kitwanga Lumber Company, shown here [left] with **Sandra Osmond**, Partner, HKMB HUB International, was honoured with HUB's Impact Award at the 2008 RBC Canadian Woman Entrepreneur Awards (www.theawards.ca), for creating a global initiative for Kitwanga. One of the largest exporters of B.C. wood products, its markets include North America, Central America and Southeast Asia, and 70% of its employees are First Nations people.

