

DFAIT Joins Million Dollar Club

Employees surpass the million dollar mark in contributions to GCWCC

By Carol McQueen, Volunteer Coordinator for the DFAIT GCWCC

“Be a Star in Someone’s Life” was the theme of the Government of Canada’s 2007 Workplace Charitable Campaign (GCWCC). Once again, DFAIT employees took this motto to heart, donating a grand total of \$1,098,156 to the United Way, the 16 Health Partners, and the more than 88,000 registered charities across Canada. For the second year in a row, DFAIT joins the Million Dollar Club of government departments that contribute over \$1 million to the campaign. Only four other departments claimed membership to the illustrious group in 2007.

As in past years, DFAIT participation levels were staggeringly high compared to other departments within the Government, hovering well over the 63% mark, with some offices reaching 100% participation. Missions abroad also responded to the call.

A talented team of organizers, supported by more than 300 DFAIT volunteers, ran one of the most fun and inspiring GCWCC campaigns ever. GCWCC Director General Gordon Houlden (East

Asia Bureau and DFAIT Champion), Team Leader Menna Andrews and Coordinator Ian Burchett (BCM) organized a fantastic launch celebration. The event, titled “Hollywood Stars Come to DFAIT,” included special guest appearances by Shrek (Drew Fagan), Princess Leia (Doreen Steidle) and the Mad Hatter (Peter Boehm). One of the main highlights was a duet featuring DFAIT Deputy Minister Len Edwards, dressed as Harry Potter, and his talented daughter, musician Kathleen Edwards.

The success of this year’s campaign would not have been possible without the support of the two Deputy Ministers: the aforementioned

Len Edwards and Marie-Lucie Morin, both of whom went beyond the call of duty to raise awareness, build momentum, and encourage our volunteer canvassers, team captains and branch coordinators. Marie-Lucie Morin even acted in an “I Love Lucie” sketch at the launch party held at 111 Sussex Drive.

Congratulations are also extended to the hundreds of volunteers who spent many hours canvassing employees and promoting campaign messages. The success of the 2007 campaign reveals yet again that DFAIT employees feel a special calling to work in the service of others and to help the communities in which they live, whether in Canada or abroad.



Top: DFAIT ADMs and senior officials played their part for the campaign.

Middle: Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Len Edwards shares the spotlight with his daughter, talented singer-songwriter Kathleen Edwards.

Bottom: Lucy and Ricky Ricardo (a.k.a. Deputy Minister of International Trade Marie-Lucie Morin and John Gero, ADM of Trade Policy and Negotiations) launch the GCWCC Blitz Days by entertaining a rapt audience at 111 Sussex with a comedic skit that underlined the importance of giving.