

For immediate release

Award-winning DiverseCity onBoard program now available across Canada

Toronto, ON, February 25, 2015 – At an event hosted by Cisco Canada last evening, the award-winning DiverseCity onBoard program opened a new chapter in the evolution of this small yet practical local idea. The program will now be available in six additional cities across Canada: Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Montreal, Calgary and Vancouver.

His Worship Mayor John Tory, Mayor of Toronto, the Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Associate Minister of Finance of Ontario, and Sheldon Levy, President, Ryerson University, all steadfast champions of the initiative, addressed an audience of 150 guests from the private, public and voluntary sectors. They recognized the tremendous growth of the program as a signal that diverse leadership is a necessity to strengthen the governance bodies of public and private institutions across the country.

“Diversity in Canada is on the rise and it is one of Canada’s greatest strengths,” said Ratna Omidvar, Executive Director, Global Diversity Exchange. “Yet, while our cities and urban regions have become more ethnically and racially diverse over time, their leadership, be it political, social, cultural, or economic is still a reflection of the ‘old Canada.’ Capitalizing on our immense talent pool is an imperative for today’s non-profit, public and corporate boards. DiverseCity onBoard is a nimble solution to bridge the diversity gap in governance.”

“Diversity in the workplace and immigrant inclusion and entrepreneurship are key foci for TRSM’s strategic plan and vision. Therefore, we are very pleased to have DiverseCity onBoard as part of the Ted Rogers School of Management – there’s a natural synergy,” commented Dr. Steven Murphy, Dean, Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University.

Now housed at the Global Diversity Exchange within the Ted Rogers School of Management, Ryerson University, DiverseCity onBoard works towards ensuring that the governance bodies of Canadian agencies, boards and commissions more closely reflect the lived reality of the community. Started in Toronto by Maytree in 2006, the program has successfully matched more than 720 qualified professionals, entrepreneurs, social workers, administrators and marketers from visible minority and under-represented communities with hospitals, museums and the voluntary sector.

Having adopted a social enterprise model with a new board matching database and the DiverseCity onBoard Campus, the national program will offer affordable, quality online governance training to all individuals and sectors across Canada.

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ABOUT DIVERSECITY ONBOARD – www.diversecityonboard.ca

DiverseCity onBoard ensures that the governance bodies of agencies, boards and commissions in the voluntary, charitable and public sectors more closely reflect the lived reality of the community. It conducts research, and analyzes the impact and benefits of embedding governance diversity into institutions and organizations. It develops platforms to enable organizations and individuals to connect with each other and build their governance capacity with a focus on diversity and inclusion. It offers self-paced, affordable quality online governance training to all individuals and all sectors. It builds the essential social networks across communities that area a precursor for social cohesion. The national replication of DiverseCity onBoard is supported with funding from TD, Maytree, The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade.

ABOUT GLOBAL DIVERSITY EXCHANGE – www.globaldiversityexchange.ca

The Global Diversity Exchange (GDX) is a think and do tank based at the Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University and funded by Maytree. Under the leadership of founding Executive Director, Ratna Omidvar, GDX identifies and amplifies the links between prosperity, diversity and migration and anchors these in policy, research and practice.

ABOUT TED ROGERS SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT – www.ryerson.ca/tedrogersschool

Ted Rogers School of Management at Ryerson University is Canada's preeminent entrepreneurial-focused business management school that is shaping the next generation of global innovators and leaders with a combination of experiential and theoretical learning. Ted Rogers School of Management is AACSB accredited and home to six schools of management, 12 research centres and institutes, offers two MBA degrees and one research-focused Master's degree.

REPLICATING CITIES

London – Pillar Nonprofit Network - www.pillarnonprofit.ca

Pillar Nonprofit Network supports nonprofit member organizations in fulfilling their missions in our community, while also making connections for community impact. Pillar provides leadership, advocacy and professional development, and promotes volunteerism, networking opportunities and information sharing. Pillar also believes fostering social enterprise, social innovation and cross-sector collaboration are key strategic priorities in building stronger and more inclusive communities.

Hamilton – Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI) - www.hcci.ca

Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion is a community-based organization committed to working as a catalyst for creating a welcoming and inclusive community. HCCI initiates and supports transformational processes that promote equity and create inclusive environments in all areas of civic life.

Ottawa – Volunteer Ottawa - www.volunteerottawa.ca

Celebrating its 60th year, Volunteer Ottawa builds community by supporting the not-for-profit sector through, education, fostering collaboration, and promoting volunteerism. VO hosts the largest database of volunteer opportunities in the city and works directly with voluntary organizations to ensure they have the volunteers needed to fulfill their mandates. Through our training programs, member agencies and more effective, focused and skilled in meeting the needs of their clients.

Montreal - Conférence régionale des élus de Montréal – www.credemontreal.qc.ca

The Conférence régionale des élus (CRÉ) de Montréal brings together political and socioeconomic leaders from the Island of Montréal and is the government's preferred interlocutor in matters of regional development. Its mandate is to encourage the development of its territory via a coordinated approach.

Calgary – Bow Valley College – www.bowvalleycollege.ca

Bow Valley College is Alberta's largest community college, serving 15,000 learners each year. The College offers year-round career certificate and diploma programs, as well as adult upgrading, and has the largest English Language Learning department in Western Canada. Through the Center for Excellence in Immigrant and Intercultural Advancement, the College is committed to community connectedness and the diversity advantage. Bow Valley College also offers a range of career services, and specialized services to support newcomers to Canada with securing viable careers and professional accreditation.

Vancouver – The Laurier Institution – www.thelaurier.ca

The Laurier Institution was founded in 1989 by business and community leaders to advance and disseminate knowledge about the economic and social implications of Canadian diversity. The Laurier Institution is a national, nonprofit, non-partisan organization. Our research and educational activities are funded by membership fees, donations, sponsorships, and project-based funding.

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