



For Release March 4, 2008

**International Women's Week
Meet the 2008 Women of Distinction before the rest of Toronto**

When: Tuesday March 4th, 2008
 10:00-10:30 Pre-interviews and photo-ops with the 2008 Women of Distinction.
 10:30 Talk-show style discussion with Women of Distinction exploring the Roots of Women's Equality.

Where: YWCA Bergamot Residence at 68 Bergamot Ave. (off Islington Ave. north of HWY 401) YWCA Toronto's newest affordable housing project in Etobicoke

Who: **MARY AITKEN** Entrepreneurship
ZAHRA DHANANI Social Change
AYAN HERSI Young Woman of Distinction
DEEPA MEHTA President's Award*
SHARMEEN OBAID-CHINOY Communications*
FRAN ODETTE Access & Equity
ROSE PATTEN Corporate Leadership*
KELLY THORNTON Arts & Letters

Photo Opp: With the help of boys and girls from the YWCA Bergamot Childcare centre, recipients will sow seedlings in preparation for the daycare's community garden, representing how Women of Distinction sow seeds of equality with the next generation.

The awards will be conferred at the 28th annual Women of Distinction Awards Dinner, presented by Sun Life Financial, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre on June 3, 2008. This event is YWCA Toronto's largest annual fundraiser. YWCA offers over 30 programs across Toronto, supporting women at turning points in their lives.

For the full list of Women of Distinction or for more information about the awards visit and for information www.womenofdistinction.ca.

***These recipients are available for interviews before and after the press conference, but will not be present.**

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