



## **The Right Hon. Michaëlle Jean New Honorary Patron of CWC**

**TORONTO – March 31, 2006** Canadian Women in Communications (CWC) is pleased to announce that Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, is the organization's new Honorary Patron. Her Excellency succeeds the former Governor General and CWC Honorary Patron, Adrienne Clarkson.

"CWC is grateful and extremely proud to have such a well-respected and eminent woman as its honorary patron," said Stephanie MacKendrick, President of CWC. "Her Excellency's background in communications and her leadership in the advancement of women aligns perfectly with our mandate and makes her an impressive role model for our members."

Michaëlle Jean is Canada's first black Governor General and the second person from a visible minority (after Adrienne Clarkson), to occupy this prestigious position. Besides French and English, she is fluent in Spanish, Italian, and Haitian Creole. In her early years at the University of Montreal, she worked at a shelter for battered women and later helped establish a network of shelters for women and children across Canada. Michaëlle Jean's commitment to social justice began when she worked with organizations that help immigrants to Canada. Later, she translated this passion into a position with Employment and Immigration Canada and at the Conseil des Communautés culturelles du Québec. Michaëlle Jean went on to become an award-winning reporter, filmmaker and broadcaster. She has one daughter, Marie-Éden, adopted from Haiti. For more information on Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, visit [www.gg.ca](http://www.gg.ca)

Canadian Women in Communications (CWC) is a national, bilingual organization dedicated to the advancement of women in the communications industry through strategic networking, targeted professional development and meaningful recognition. There are currently over 1,400 CWC members in nine chapters across Canada. For more information on CWC, visit [www.cwc-afc.com](http://www.cwc-afc.com)

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