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New Chair and Board members elected at United Way AGM

Mississauga – More than 200 people attended United Way of Peel Region’s annual meeting today and heard the Honourable Deb Matthews, Ontario Minister of Children and Youth Services and Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction, speak about her work in the fight against poverty.

At the meeting, four new Board members were elected for a three-year term. At a Board of Directors meeting immediately following the annual meeting, **Joseph Palumbo** was elected Board Chair. Other officers elected were **Michelle Cole**, Senior Vice President with GE Capital Solutions, as Vice Chair; **Bobby Sachdeva**, Partner, Pallett Valo LLP, as Secretary; and **Norma Trim**, Director, Corporate Finance and Deputy Treasurer with the Region of Peel, as Treasurer.

Palumbo is the Executive Director of the Career Development Centre at the Schulich School of Business, York University. He has more than 26 years of diverse business experience. He is also an Executive Coach for several organizations and CEO of the Americas division for one of India’s largest, independent and most prestigious Executive Search firms. In addition, he is an active member of a number of organizations including the International Coaching Federation, Human Resources Professional Ontario, Society for Human Resources Management, MBA Career Services Council, The Board of Trade of Metropolitan Toronto, Canadian Professional Sales Association, Canadian Association of Career Educators and Employers and The Certified Management Accountants of Ontario. He holds a marketing degree from York University, a CMA designation and an MBA from the Schulich School of Business. He was elected to the United Way of Peel Region Board in 2006. Palumbo lives in Mississauga.

“I feel honored and privileged to be elected Chair of United Way of Peel Region’s Board of Directors,” says Joseph Palumbo. “I’m looking forward to working with my fellow directors, other volunteers, and the staff team as we continue to inspire and champion social change in our community.”

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The following individuals were elected to the Board for their first three-year term:

MARK BECKLES

Mark Beckles is president and CEO of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund (Canada). His responsibilities include fundraising and developing partnerships with community and government stakeholders. Previously, Beckles has held senior positions in insurance and risk management over a period of 18 years in the Caribbean, UK and Canada. He is a Certified Risk Manager and holds an MBA in International Business from Bradford University in the United Kingdom. Beckles is a Brampton resident.

SAVINO DiPASQUALE

SavinoDiPasquale is Chief Information Officer and Vice President of Information Technology with GlaxoSmithKline Canada. He also chairs GSK's Global IT Emerging Technology Council, responsible for the company's emerging technology agency including the evaluation of new information technology opportunities. In 2006 he was named "CIO of the Year" by the Canadian Information Productivity Awards and CIO Canada. He is also a director of the Kids' Health Links Foundation. Mr. DiPasquale is a computer science graduate from the University of Toronto.

SHAILA MEHTA

Shaila Mehta is a Chartered Accountant and a Partner in Deloitte's Assurance & Advisory practice. She is also the Partner in charge of learning and growth for Deloitte's audit practitioners in the Greater Toronto Area. Mehta has more than 15 years of experience in providing audit and advisory services, primarily in the manufacturing sector. She served as a Board member and Treasurer of the Mississauga Board of Trade from 2004 to 2006. Mehta holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from York University.

BONNIE WATERFIELD

Bonnie Waterfield is an Administrative Assistant at Family Transition Place in Orangeville. Waterfield returns to the Board after serving previously from 1997 to 2002. She has served as a member of United Way's Community Investment Cabinet for more than 10 years, including as Chair for six years. In 2002 Waterfield chaired United Way's Priorities Review Working Group, which identified community investment priorities and articulated the vision for building capacity in the human services sector. In 2003 she co-chaired the Capacity Building Sub-group of the Paving the Road Committee. This work led to the development of United Way's outcomes measurement initiative, the development of the Strengthening Organizational Effectiveness Fund and the creation of the Peel Learning Institute. Waterfield is a resident of the Town of Caledon.

Continuing as Board members are Harold Brathwaite, Charles Courneyea, Michelle Cole, Matthew Curran, Vijay Kanwar, Louroz Mercader, Joseph Palumbo, Bobby Sachdeva, Don Taylor, Kamal Jolly, Norma Trim and Janice Telfer. Past Chair Dr. Colin Saldanha and Sean Smith, 2008 Campaign Chair, are ex officio members of the Board.

The mission of United Way of Peel Region is to engage with our community, through partnerships, to ensure people are cared for, connected and included.