



# NEWS RELEASE

## **Five local Grade 10 students receive CIBC Youthvision® Scholarships valued at up to \$36,000 each**

*Scholarship includes tuition, paid summer internships at YMCA and mentoring to help them reach their full potential*

**TORONTO, June 9, 2010** — CIBC (CM:TSX: NYSE) is pleased to announce that Ms. Mardaina Daley of [Notre Dame High School](#), Ms. Hanna-Ruth Desalines of [Le Collège français](#), Ms. Nirusha Jebanesan of [L'Amoreaux Collegiate Institute](#), Ms. Raquel Simpson of [The YMCA Academy](#), and Mr. Spencer Craig of [Silverthorn Collegiate Institute](#) are among the 30 Grade 10 students from across Canada receiving the 2010 [CIBC Youthvision® Scholarship](#) awards, the only scholarship program in Canada awarded to Grade 10 students.

The *CIBC Youthvision Scholarship*, delivered through CIBC's unique partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and YMCA Canada, combines post-secondary tuition, paid summer internships at the YMCA and mentoring support to help youth reach their full potential. This year's crop of winners brings the total number of scholarships awarded to Grade 10 students across Canada to 360, representing a multi-year commitment by CIBC of more than \$10 million for this program.

"Winning the *CIBC Youthvision Scholarship* means a lot to my family and me because now my mother doesn't have to worry about where the money is going to come from when it's time for me to go to college or university," said Simpson. "I'm happy that I can now fulfill my goals of what I want to be and not wonder how I'm going to get there.

"I know that I want to give back to youth and one day manage a Boys and Girls Club," added Simpson. "I know what youth want so I want to use my skills and interact with them to encourage them to be their own advocates, to develop leadership skills, to be open to new ideas and to figure out goals they can reach."

"I am amazed at Raquel's leadership, self-confidence and empathy towards others," said Alexi Manis, Simpson's mentor and teacher at the YMCA Academy. "She is a dynamic, energetic young woman who challenges herself constantly and those around her to treat people with respect. She offers consolation to her peers in times of stress, a light-hearted joke when ice needs breaking and a helping hand with academics. She also assumes leadership roles in a range of school initiatives. She is currently developing a program at the East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club where younger women participate in cheerleading activities to promote self-confidence and a positive body image. This *CIBC Youthvision Scholarship* will not only help the family financially, but will give hope to the struggling youth in Raquel's community, validate her belief that she CAN attend post-secondary school and support the many people who will, in future, benefit from Raquel's charisma and compassion."

"Receiving this scholarship means that my mom won't have to worry about being able to afford to pay for me to attend university," said Daley. "It means that I will

have the university experience, and, even more, that I earned it on my own. To me, this scholarship is an open door to opportunities. I now know that I can achieve the things that I strive for. Anything is attainable.

"I have my heart set on going to a Canadian university to get a Bachelor of Arts degree and then get my Masters in Social Work," Daley added. "I have learned a lot about the field of social work through summer employment, as well as the social justice system, and I seem to be guided in that direction."

"I have had the privilege of watching an energetic, enthusiastic little girl transform into an independent, talented young woman," said Natasha Audette, Daley's Big Sister for the past 10 years. "Her talents in the area of writing and the arts astound me, as her work reads way beyond her years. I proudly display her art work in my home and await the day I get to read her first published novel, and I know that day will come. Mardi has always been a straight-A student as a result of her hard work and thirst for knowledge. Without the opportunity to receive scholarships her dream of one day attending university would remain just that, a dream. An investment in Mardi Daley's future is a sure win. She will not disappoint."

"The *CIBC Youthvision Scholarship* has definitely opened plenty of avenues for my future pursuit," said Jebanesan. "With this scholarship I can explore more academic options that I once thought were financially unattainable. In essence, my goals and aspirations for the future have instantly multiplied. I now feel that I have the potential to achieve things that I have only dreamed of, as the financial burden is no longer a concern. This scholarship program brings a great sigh of relief for not only me but for my family as well, and for that I couldn't be grateful enough."

"Winning this scholarship means a successful life," said Craig. "It means pride for my mother, and self confidence for me. I'm honoured to have been selected and you have my word I will make the most of this wonderful opportunity."

"In the five years that I've known Spencer, I have watched him grow from young boyhood to become a confident, personable young man. We have developed a close, candid and trusting relationship and share many common interests," said David Scollard, Craig's Big Brother. "He's inherently very bright and excels academically when he applies himself. I think he has huge potential. He is a natural athlete and has the aptitude and desire for a post-secondary education. The scholarship is putting him in a position to succeed in life and to be a role model for others. The return on investment is going to be terrific."

All five students met the main eligibility requirement of being enrolled in a mentoring program with [Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada](#) or the [YMCA](#). Daley and Spencer are members of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toronto, while Deslaines, Jebanesan and Simpson belong to the YMCA.

Each of the five recipients will receive six summer internships through the YMCA that begin right after Grade 10, valued at up to \$20,000; and tuition for four years at the Canadian university or college of their choice, valued at up to \$16,000. They also will receive ongoing mentoring until they graduate from their post-secondary education.

"The *CIBC Youthvision Scholarship Program* is unique in that it targets young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to pursue a university or college education and supports them in completing both their high school and post-

secondary studies,” said Kim Baudouin, Assistant Director, Higher Education Scholarships, [Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada](#) (AUCC). “As administrator of the program, AUCC is proud to partner with CIBC, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and the YMCA to reach out to high school students through this program.”

“It is inspiring to see how deserving young people like these are and how hard they work towards their goals,” said Larry Tomei, CIBC’s Senior Vice-President of Retail Markets for Central Canada. “The *CIBC Youthvision Scholarship* is added encouragement for them to realize their academic dreams and their full potential.”

Liam LaTouche received his *CIBC Youthvision Scholarship* in 2001 and graduated in 2007 from the University of Western Ontario with an Honours Bachelor of Science Specialization in Kinesiology. “The CIBC Youthvision Scholarship opened so many doors for me,” he said. “It gave me the chance to grow as a person and along the career path I always dreamed of. I knew I wanted to go to university to get where I wanted to be, but I didn’t have the means to go. I would have had a ton of debt from student loans. Getting the scholarship was so overwhelming. It gave me the chance to leave home and tailor my career path towards sports medicine by studying at Western, which has propelled me in my field.”

CIBC is committed to supporting causes that matter to our clients, employees and our communities. We aim to make a difference in communities through corporate donations, sponsorships and the volunteer spirit of employees. With a strategic focus on youth, education and health, and employee commitment to causes including the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure, the CIBC Children’s Foundation and United Way, we are investing in the social and economic development of communities across the country. In 2009, \$26.8 million was contributed through the CIBC group of companies to charitable and non-profit initiatives in Canada, supporting a wide variety of national, regional and local organizations. To learn more, visit [www.communitymatters.cibc.com](http://www.communitymatters.cibc.com).

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**To arrange an interview with any of the five recipients** or for more information, please contact Doug Maybee, CIBC, at 416-980-7458 or [doug.maybee@cibc.com](mailto:doug.maybee@cibc.com)