FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women in Capital Markets Recognizes Exceptional Role Models

WCM Honours Two Extraordinary Women in Capital Markets at Awards Ceremony in Toronto

TORONTO, November 1, 2011 - Women in Capital Markets (WCM), a non-profit organization that promotes the advancement of women in the Canadian financial services industry, today announced the 2011 winners of the WCM Rising Star Award and the WCM Award for Leadership. Both awards are given annually to high achieving professionals nominated by their colleagues and managers.

In its second year, the WCM Rising Star Award honours an individual who at an early stage in their career has made a lasting contribution by providing inspirational leadership and mentorship to young women in the industry. The winner of the 2011 WCM Rising Star Award is Joanne O’Hea, Vice President, Equity Agency Trading, RBC Capital Markets.

The WCM Award for Leadership, now in its fifth year, recognizes a senior executive, male or female, who has combined professional excellence with a demonstrated commitment to advancing and supporting women in the capital markets. Michelle K. Khalili, Managing Director, Equity Capital Markets, Wholesale Banking at CIBC is the recipient of the 2011 WCM Award for Leadership.

"These awards, given to two very deserving women, recognize not just their individual leadership and contribution to advancing the standards of our industry, but the type of inspiration, dedication and commitment needed to help advance women in the Canadian capital markets,” said Martha Fell, CEO of WCM. “These awards are one way we are celebrating women for inspiring greater diversity in the financial industry.”

The awards were presented at a luncheon on November 1, 2011 at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel that was generously sponsored by Ernst & Young LLP, the title sponsor of the event and, our supporting sponsor, the Toronto CFA Society.

"Mentoring and sponsoring women’s advancement in this industry isn’t just nice to have, it’s a business imperative that can create a competitive advantage," said Heather Kerr, Leader of Ernst & Young’s Financial Services Tax Practice in Canada. "We are proud to work with an organization that shares these values with us, and celebrates people who are making inclusiveness real in this industry, and the broader business community."

WCM is a non-profit organization that aims to support and advance women leaders in business, foster accountability for diversity in the industry, and recognize leaders who have contributed significantly to the advancement of women in the capital markets industry. Through innovative programming, WCM offers its members diverse and creative opportunities for networking, career growth and personal development, and mentoring and coaching of both students and professionals. WCM is generously sponsored by seven Gold Corporate Champions, BMO Financial Group, CIBC, National Bank, RBC Capital Markets, Scotia Capital, TD, and UBS, in addition to three Silver Corporate Champions, Desjardins Capital Markets, ITG, and KPMG. www.wcm.ca
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For further information about WCM, please contact: Penny Reid, WCM Director, Marketing & Communications, (905) 599-6400, reid.penny@gmail.com

**About our Winners**

**Michelle K. Khalili, CA CFA**

Michelle Khalili is a Managing Director of CIBC’s Equity Capital Markets group, part of the Wholesale Banking arm of CIBC. She joined CIBC in April 2000 as a member of the Equity Capital Markets group. Ms. Khalili has responsibility for the firm’s origination and execution of equity financing transactions in a number of different industries.

Prior to joining CIBC, she was with the Investment Banking group at another investment dealer, working on financings, advisory mandates and merger and acquisition transactions. In addition, Ms. Khalili worked in the Corporate Finance and Audit groups of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Ms. Khalili holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Toronto as well as Chartered Accountant and Chartered Financial Analyst designations.

Ms. Khalili has been involved in a number of community initiatives, including the Canadian Women’s Foundation Girls Growth Fund, the Royal Ontario Museum – Fact or Fiction Committee, CIBC’s Wholesale Banking Diversity committee and Women’s Network and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure.

Ms. Khalili is the Vice-Chair on the Board of Directors of the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada and is a member of the Human Resources and Pension Committee. She is also Co-Chair of Philanthropy for 100 Women in Hedge Funds in Toronto. She has been a member of WCM since 1995 and was named the 2008 recipient of the Kingsbridge Women in Capital Markets Career Coaching Award.

**Joanne O’Hea**

Joanne O’Hea is Vice President, Equity Agency Trading at RBC Capital Markets, where she is responsible for the sales and trading of equity securities for institutional and corporate clients, management of normal course issuer bids executed in Canada, and partnering with Sales, Trading, Research and Investment Banking in building deeper client relationships.

Prior to joining RBC, Ms. O’Hea held a series of progressively senior sales, marketing and asset management roles at TD, and more recently at TE Investment Counsel Inc.

Since joining RBC Capital markets in 2007, Ms. O’Hea has made significant contributions to the firm’s success and workplace culture. She is one of the founding members of RBC Capital Markets’ *RWomen*, a globally expanding internal forum dedicated to fostering female development and career aspirations, and is an enthusiastic mentor through the Summer Internship Program.

Ms. O’Hea also coaches young Women in Capital Markets (WCM) members, and has served as a WCM high school liaison, a role in which she participates in job shadow activities and in speaking to student groups. Ms. O’Hea is actively involved in the community through numerous charitable initiatives including: the Bay Street Children's Foundation, Fight for Independence in support of Nazareth House and Sick Kids Foundation, Dress your Best, and the Bay Street Stampede in support of the Yellow Bus Foundation.