

For Immediate Release

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Scadding Court Community Centre Receives Race Relations Award

Downtown's Scadding Court Community Centre is a recipient of the City of Toronto's 2009 William P. Hubbard Award for Race Relations. Named for Toronto's first African-Canadian city councillor (1894-1913), it honours outstanding contributions to race relations in Toronto. Scadding Court is a leader and innovator in establishing local and citywide initiatives that educate communities, improve opportunities and remove barriers caused by racism. "This award speaks to the leadership of our Board and staff as well as the commitment and contributions of many community partners" says the Centre's Executive Director Kevin Lee.

Agency initiatives include collaboration with Toronto Community Housing to offer the *Investing in our Diversity Scholarship Program*, which provides \$4,000 post-secondary scholarships to youth from marginalized community who are active in anti-racism or diversity work. Since 2003 this program has awarded more than \$300,000 to over 75 deserving young people. It also actively engages public institutions and the private sector on these issues, through partners like Mount Sinai Hospital, the National Bank, Blaney McMurtry LLP and others. "The dedication of our partners is what makes this work possible," says agency Board Chair Doug Lowry. He adds that "Whether it's a community group, a local agency or school or a large corporation, we rely on their understanding of the issues and their commitment to moving forward."

Alongside other activities like child and youth programs that emphasize the integration of newcomers, community celebrations that raise awareness and understanding about diverse groups and a health equity project in partnership with CAMH and other key health sector stakeholders, Scadding Court also founded and provided leadership to the *Community Education and Access to Police Complaints Partnership*, which include the Toronto Police Services and has played an important role in addressing community-police relations.

The 2009 Access, Equity and Human Rights Awards will be presented on Wednesday, November 25 at the City's annual Human Rights Day ceremony to be held at City Hall.

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