Investing in people
MULTICULTURAL COUNCIL
OF WINDSOR AND ESSEX COUNTY

NEWS RELEASE **February 23, 2011**

Multicultural Council announces Harmony and Champion Award recipients

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County (MCC) today named the 2011 Herb Gray Harmony and Champion Award recipients and announced details of its ninth annual Awards Gala and Dinner themed the ***Magic of Morocco*** on **Thursday, April 28th** at the Ciociaro Club.

HARMONY AWARD
David Musyj
President and CEO Windsor Regional Hospital

Mr. Musyj encourages a workplace environment of mutual respect and widely promotes the hospital as encompassing an inclusive, diverse environment. Under his leadership the hospital has a strong and active diversity committee working to ensure they provide services to reflect the vision of outstanding care. Mr. Musyj encourages a proactive approach taking into account cultural competencies in the area of labour and service delivery where religious and cultural preferences surface.

The Harmony Award honours individuals, businesses and organizations who have embraced the MCC's mission of promoting and encouraging a harmonious society in Windsor and Essex County that is multi-racial, multi-ethnic and multi-faith. Selected from a host of distinguished and notable nominees, the award recipient is also an active advocate for the social equality of all cultures.

CHAMPION AWARD
Snjezana Gacesa

Arriving in Canada as a young teenager Ms. Gacesa is of Serbian descent born in the former Yugoslavia now known as Croatia. Volunteering to assist newcomers with their housing, employment, translation, settlement and integration needs, Ms Gacesa is a strong advocate to support their transition into the community. In 1971 Ms Gacesa was part of the first local steering committee to provide input on Canada's developing Multicultural Policy.

The Champion Award recognizes and celebrates the significant contributions first generation Canadians make to our community.

Corporate tables and sponsorship opportunities are still available and organizers are accepting donations of products and services appropriate for the Silent Auction tables. Tickets to the Herb Gray Harmony Awards Gala Dinner are $75 each, and can be purchased at the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County located at 245 Janette Avenue or by calling (519) 255-1127.

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For more information:
Kathleen Thomas, Executive Director
(519) 255-1127

BACKGROUND:

The Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County formed in 1973 when members from more than 30 local ethno cultural groups joined together to deal with issues facing the area's multicultural community and provide services to the newcomers.

The council is an umbrella organization of community-based groups and organizations involved in cultural sensitivity, anti-racism promotion / education, newcomer integration, inter-cultural education and cultural retention. Its mission is to promote and encourage a harmonious society in Windsor and Essex County that is multi-racial, multi-ethnic, and multi-faith, and to work toward the social equality of all cultures.

The Multicultural Council offers a number of services designed to help immigrants settle into the community, and eliminate racism and discrimination. These include community health programs, employment workshops, English classes and translators. This year celebrates the 36th year of the Carrousel of the Nation festival to promote Windsor's cultural diversity.

For more information please visit our website: www.themcc.com

Past recipients of the Harmony Award include: John Morris Russell (2010); Gary Parent (2009); Rotary Clubs of Windsor and Essex County (2008); Michael G. Solcz (2007); Jamie Henderson (2007); Elise Harding-Davis (2006); Champion Products (2006); Women's Enterprise Skills Training of Windsor Inc. (2006); Dr. John Lyanga (2005); Dr. Subhas Ramcharan (2004); Capitol Theatre and Arts Centre (2004); and Vernon Mahadeo (2003).

Past recipients of the Champion Award include: Marwan Taqtaq (2010); Dr. Raphael Cheung (2009); Antoine Greige (2008) and Anthony P. Toldo (2006).