



# Halton Multicultural Council

**For Immediate Release**

*November 29, 2006*

## **Halton Multicultural Council and Certified General Accountants of Ontario work to build bridges of access for internationally trained professionals**

***Partnering provides accountants new to Canada with a free resource and first steps towards achieving a professional accounting designation***

OAKVILLE – The Halton Multicultural Council (HMC) and Certified General Accountants of Ontario are pleased to announce a partnership that builds a significant bridge for internationally trained accountants wishing to pursue a certified general accountant (CGA) designation.

Beginning in January 2007, HMC offers focused language instruction to internationally trained accountants, in preparation for the mandatory **CGA Communications 1** exam. HMC charges no fee to qualified individuals for this training, and the program also includes accounting software training, job search assistance and work placement support. This new training is another success of the Bridge-to-Work Service for Internationally Trained Accountants and Bookkeepers, a bridge training program funded by the Government of Ontario and launched in June.

“This partnership provides internationally trained accountants with significant support as they work towards attaining a Canadian professional accounting designation,” says Joanna Matthews, managing director, Halton Multicultural Council. “By reducing barriers to certification for those professionals who immigrate to Canada, this initiative, in turn, accelerates the return of accounting professionals to their original career of choice.”

“The Certified General Accountants of Ontario has a long history of removing barriers for internationally trained professionals,” indicates Joyce Evans, FCGA, chair, board of governors, for CGA Ontario. “Over the past year we’ve been working with the Government of Ontario and demonstrating how we assess foreign credentials, to allow a smooth transitioning from an international education program to our professional accounting designation. Effective business communications skills are a vital component to integrating into a new work environment, so we’re delighted to help the clients of the Halton Multicultural Council bridge that hurdle, by providing access to our CGA Communications 1 exam.”

### **About Halton Multicultural Council**

The Halton Multicultural Council is a community agency dedicated to enabling every individual, regardless of race or ethnic origin, to participate as full and active members of the community through fostering mutual respect and understanding of one another. The Bridge-to-Work Service for Internationally Trained Accountants and Bookkeepers is funded by the Government of Ontario.

For further information:

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### **About the Certified General Accountants of Ontario**

The Certified General Accountants of Ontario is a self-governing body, which grants the exclusive right to the CGA designation, and controls the professional standards, conduct and discipline of its members and students in the province of Ontario. It comprises 17,000 certified general accountants and 9,000 students in the CGA program. Broadly and deeply competent, certified general accountants (CGAs) are committed to meeting the needs of businesses and organizations with accounting and financial expertise, strategic insight, leadership and know-how. CGA Ontario's official charitable partner is Big Brothers Big Sisters of Canada and its affiliate agencies across Ontario.

For further information:

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