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NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROMOTES PEACE

New Centre Works Towards an Inclusive Hamilton Free of Racism

Thursday, September 28, 2006 – HAMILTON: The new Hamilton's Center for Civic Inclusion (HCCI) is pleased to announce the appointment of its first Executive Director, Madina Wasuge. Madina has more than 14 years of experience in the context of social service including strategic planning, coalition-building, advocacy, organizational development and program design and implementation. She has also developed and tested conflict transformation models.

The new HCCI was formed by joining the Strengthening of Hamilton's Community Initiative (SHCI) and the Civic and Resource Center (C&RC) and is the result of hard work of many volunteers from the Hamilton community. HCCI was supported by **Mayor Di Ianni** in response to a question following Tuesday's State of the City Address.

HCCI is committed to mobilizing all Hamiltonians by assisting the City, major institutions, businesses, service providers and others to initiate and sustain transformative processes to create racism-free and inclusive environments by building partnerships and working with these institutions.

In addition to her other tasks as Executive Director, Madina will promote peace by addressing acts of violence and hate crimes by responding to incidents of discrimination through serving as a reliable media source and producing media releases with position statements on the advice of her Interim Governing Council

"It is an honour to serve as the first Executive Director of this dynamic new organization," said **Madina Wasuge, Executive Director of HCCI**. "Participating in the promotion of a peaceful and inclusive Hamilton is a challenge that I look forward to meeting with the help of my esteemed Governing Council and community partners."

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Background

HCCI is a grass-roots community-based initiative committed to working as a catalyst for anti-racist change across Hamilton. It addresses everyday racism of joblessness, poverty and the lack of access and equity within institutionalized health, education and other services by building partnerships and working with these institutions.

For more information or interviews contact:

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