National women's group applauds new appointment

Sarmite Bulte appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry

he Canadian Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs applauds the Prime Minister's appointment of the Honourable Sarmite D. Bulte as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Industry, with special emphasis on Women Entrepreneurs.

"This is wonderful news," says BPW Canada President Darla Campbell. "It shows that Paul Martin and his Liberal government recognize what an important economic force women entrepreneurs are in this country."

The appointment follows a recommendation in the report of the Prime Minister's Task Force on Women Entrepreneurs, released in October of 2003, that the Prime Minister put in place an appropriate mechanism to monitor and track implementation



of the report's recommendations.

Ms Bulte chaired the Task Force, which consulted widely with thousands of women entrepreneurs in Canada. It found that women-owned businesses are a vital part of the Canadian economy. In accepting the honour of her appointment, Ms. Bulte observed, "While a number of the Task Force's recommendations have been implemented, my new mandate provides an opportunity to refocus, follow-up and implement the outstanding recommendations."

There are more than 820,000 women entrepreneurs in Canada. Women have started businesses at a rate twice that of men for the past decade. The businesses are diverse, ranging from micro-enterprises to multimillion-dollar companies employing thousands of people.

The Task Force report concluded that women-owned businesses are integral to job creation, wealth creation and making Canada a better place in which to live.

At its recent Biennial Convention in Regina, BPW Canada endorsed the Task Force report and urged the government to move ahead with implementation of its recommendations.

"Ms Bulte has been a strong supporter of women entrepreneurs and a driving force behind getting their contribution to Canadian society recognized," says Darla Campbell. "BPW Canada is prepared to work with Ms Bulte to help move this file forward."

Of particular concern is the fact that self-employed women are not eligible for maternity/parental benefits under the Employment Insurance Act, something that often forces women entrepreneurs to choose between running their business and starting a family.

Founded in 1930, BPW Canada is part of

an International Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs. BPW Canada is the voice of working women in Canada.

For more information, contact: Darla Campbell, national President, BPW Canada P: 905 845 9760, darla@amonavi.com







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Chamber of Commerce delivers Junior **Achievement Programs in Halton Hills**

alton Hills Chamber of Commerce today Memorandum signed Understanding with Junior Achievement of London & District, which provides the Chamber with the license to deliver Junior Achievement programs in the Halton Hills community.

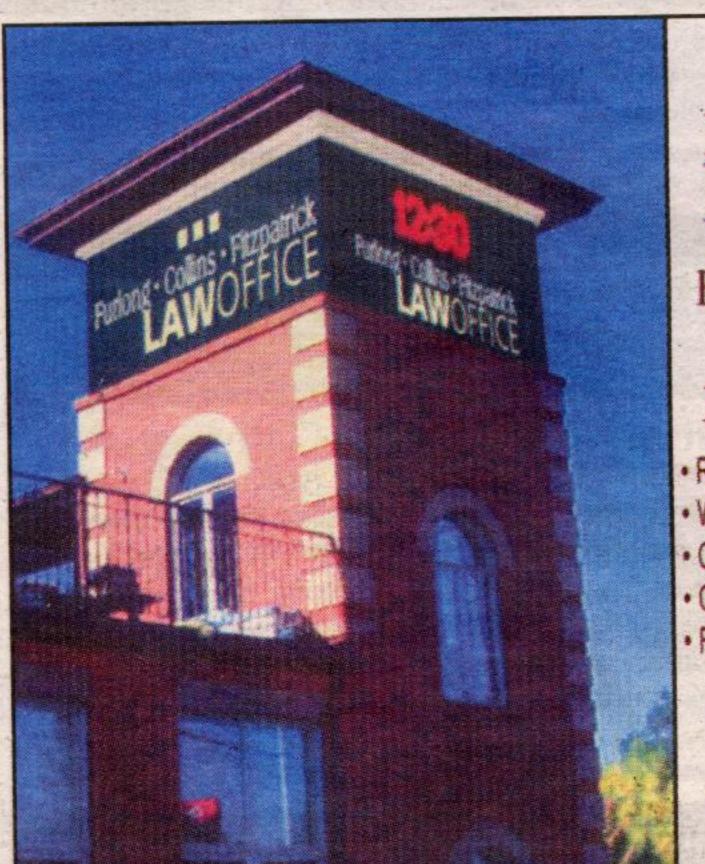
"Junior Achievement is an organization that brings together the business leaders of today with the business leaders of tomorrow in a non-threatening way that helps transfer our understanding of entrepreneurship and the workings of the business world to the next generation of leaders", says Jamie Schumacker, Chair, Junior Achievement Committee with the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce.

Operating in Canada for over 50 years, Junior Achievement's mission is to educate and inspire the youth of our community to experience free enterprise, understand business and economics and develop entrepreneurial and leadership skills.

Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce has been a long-time supporter of Junior Achievement and praises the opportunities that Junior Achievement programs offer youth.

Under the agreement with Junior Achievement of London & District, the Chamber of Commerce will be delivering, free of charge, both after-school and inschool programs to over 500 students in the Halton Hills community in the 2005-2006 school year.

Although provided free of charge to students and schools, Junior Achievement programs are delivered and funded by the members of the local business community. For more information on how you can help the youth of our community prepare for their future, contact Jamie Schumacker at 905-877-4304.



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