

MEMBER NEWS

Passion for Financial Literacy SEDI Awards 2008

On November 13th, 2008, SEDI hosted the fourth annual SEDI Awards in downtown Toronto. The Awards are to acknowledge the achievements of extraordinary people who have, through SEDI's initiatives, overcome the challenges of unemployment, poverty or a disability.

The SEDI Awards also recognizes front-line agents who help deliver SEDI's programs and make a difference in the lives of thousands of low-income Canadians. See [SEDI](#) for more information on it's work.

CBC Television anchor Suhana Meharchand once again proved to be a gracious and funny emcee, and Frank McKenna was an articulate keynote speaker, sharing his forward-thinking insights on financial literacy. McKenna is Deputy Chair of TD Bank Financial Group, former Canadian Ambassador to the United States and former Premier of New Brunswick.

Very modestly I will mention that our own BCABC Coordinator Melanie Buffel was the recipient of the *Passion for Financial Literacy Award* in recognition of her efforts in the FSGV Money Skills Program, the SEDI learnsave project and her other work in financial literacy for youth and adults.

Casey Cosgrove took the opportunity to announce the official launch of the **Centre for Financial Literacy**. The first of its kind in Canada, the Centre seeks to bring together businesses, governments and not-for-profits to create opportunities for Canadians to increase their financial literacy.

See [Winners Profiles](#)
See [Photo Gallery](#)

Poverty in the Spotlight

On Dec 11th, 2008 the CCPA released a report entitled **The Time is Now: A Poverty Reduction Plan for BC**. The report calls on all political parties to commit to legislated targets and timelines to dramatically reduce poverty in the province. It is the culmination of five years of research conducted through the Economic Security Project, a research alliance led by the CCPA and Simon Fraser University. You can download a 12-page summary of the report or the full study [here](#). A recent CCPA poll shows the vast majority of Canadians want government action on poverty. Five provinces in Canada have already developed or implemented provincial poverty reduction strategies, BC needs to get busy.

Other recent poverty reduction research and policy documents:
[Child Poverty Report Card 2008](#), **First Call Health Inequities in British Columbia**, **Health Officers Council of BC Precarious and Vulnerable: Lone Mothers on Income Assistance**
SPARC BC
[Poverty is Making Us Sick](#): A comprehensive survey of income and health in Canada, **Wellesley Institute**
[The Cost of Poverty](#): An economic report of the cost of poverty in Ontario, **Ontario Food Bank**

International Asset Building and Financial Inclusion

Disability and Entrepreneurship in the USA

The [World Institute on Disability](#) has a project called **Access to Assets** that opens doors for the disability community by promoting asset-building and financial literacy among people with disabilities. They publish a newsletter called *Equity* and the Winter 2008 edition is entitled [Microenterprise and Disability Reaching the American Dream: A report on disability, entrepreneurship, and financing](#).

Project Coordinator Megan O'Neil is profiled in a CFED [feature story](#).



PUBLIC POLICY

Public Policy organizations and resources in Canada:

- [Canadian Centre for Public Policy](#)
- [Wellesley Institute](#)
- [Caledon Institute for Public Policy](#)
- [CD Howe Institute](#)
- [Centre for Social Justice](#)
- [Canadian Review of Social Policy](#)
- [Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women](#)
- [New Economics Foundation](#)
- [Canadian Social Research Links](#)
- [Policy Library](#)

FINANCIAL LITERACY

[Financial Literacy: Lessons from International Experience](#) Sept 2007
Canadian Policy Research Networks

[The Canadian Saver](#) is a web blog that serves as the spending and saving diary of a single debt free woman in her 30's. Updated daily.

RESEARCH

[Welfare Incomes, 2006 and 2007](#) (Winter 2008), **National Council on Welfare**

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