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NEW ONTARIO AWARDS PROGRAM TO RECOGNIZE CHAMPIONS FOR NEWCOMERS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Applications for Newcomer Champion Awards Now Being Accepted

TORONTO –The McGuinty government has launched a new award program, the Newcomer Champion Awards, to recognize Ontarians who have enriched cultural diversity, facilitated harmony and understanding or helped newcomers to successfully settle and integrate, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration announced today.

“Ontario’s diversity is a strength that has helped to make our province dynamic and competitive on the global stage,” said Colle. “That’s why it is important to recognize those who have helped to make Ontario a better place to live by facilitating cultural understanding and assisting newcomers.”

The awards will acknowledge contributions in areas such as cultural outreach, cultural celebration, and connecting newcomers to communities.

Colle named three “Visionaries” who epitomize the spirit of the awards: Daniel Iannuzzi was a pioneer in the multilingual media industry in Ontario; Jean Lumb was a tireless community worker who accomplished a number of firsts for a Chinese women in Ontario; and Mary Ann Shadd was a pioneering black lawyer, editor and abolitionist.

The Newcomer Champion Awards is the latest government initiative to recognize the contributions Ontarians make to their communities. Others include:

- The Volunteer Service Awards which honours more than 9,000 volunteers across the province
- The Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship
- The Outstanding Achievement Awards for Voluntarism in Ontario

Applications for the award are being accepted until April 13, 2007.

Nomination forms, eligibility requirements and additional information about the Newcomer Champion Awards are available at www.citizenship.gov.on.ca/honoursandawards.

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