

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The **Federation of Portuguese Canadian Business and Professionals (FPCBP)** is pleased to announce **The 3rd Annual Essay Contest Awards Ceremony** in celebration of Portuguese History and Heritage Month. The event takes place on Thursday, June 22, at 6:00 pm at Strachan Hall – Trinity College, University of Toronto, located at 6 Hoskin Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

As part of its deep commitment to the Portuguese History and Heritage Project and encouraging academic excellence, the FPCBP has just concluded its 3rd Annual Essay Contest to commemorate Portuguese History and Heritage Month (as proclaimed by the Ontario Legislature and more recently, Toronto City Council). The contest ran during the month of May and was open to all Ontario students of Portuguese descent in grades 7 to 12. Entries were based on the topic "What my Portuguese heritage means to me". The FPCBP received essays from students across Ontario and 6 entries have since been selected to receive cash prizes totaling \$6 000.00.

FPCBP is pleased to announce that Michael Ignatieff, Member of Parliament for the Ontario riding of Etobicoke-Lakeshore will be this year's Keynote speaker. He is a Canadian writer, scholar and journalist. He is one of the world's foremost experts on human rights, democracy, security, and international affairs. Widely respected throughout the international community, he has advised governments and world leaders on these issues, and inspired students at leading universities around the globe.

"So many talented and creative Portuguese-Canadian youth in our province submitted essays for this competition and it really was a difficult process for our judges to choose the six winners. This event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our youth and the pride we feel in being part of the Portuguese community." says Eunice Machado, Portuguese History and Heritage Month Essay Contest Committee. "

To make reservations please contact the FPCBP office at (416) 537-8874 or email FPCBP at info@fpcbp.com. Tickets for the event cost \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. For more information about FPCBP and its many other events please visit www.fpcbp.com.

About Federation of Portuguese Canadian Business and Professionals: www.fpcbp.com

FPCBP's mission is to promote business activity, foster professionalism, develop networking opportunities, enhance political visibility, encourage academic excellence and, as a representative voice, advocate the prominence of our members within and outside the Portuguese Canadian Business and Professional community.

FPCBP, a not for profit corporation governed by an elected board of directors, is proud to foster the oldest and largest scholarship program in the Portuguese community. In the last 5 years alone, FPCBP has awarded over 100 scholarships totaling more than \$250,000. FPCBP was also appointed by the Ministry of Citizenship and the Ontario Trillium Foundation to lead and work with other organizations in the promotion of Portuguese Culture and Heritage.