



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

August 14, 2008

**BLACK MBA'S AND EXECUTIVES TO LAUNCH CANADIAN ORGANIZATION BY OPENING TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE**

*Toronto Chapter of the National Black MBA Association will open Toronto Stock Exchange on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 to launch the organization in Canada*

**TORONTO** – The Chicago based National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA) will officially launch their 43<sup>rd</sup> and first international NBMBAA chapter in Toronto next Thursday. To commemorate this event, the new Toronto chapter will open trading at the Toronto Stock Exchange at the TSX Broadcast Centre on Thursday, August 21st.

“We are very pleased with the momentum that the Toronto Chapter has built to date across Canada” said Damon Knights, President of the Toronto Chapter. “We are excited that the National Black MBA Association will have the honour to open the market.”

Canada’s leading companies are supporting the chapter - Keith Wyche, President of U.S. Operations at Pitney Bowes and NBMBAA, Inc board member will be on hand at the opening ceremony. Kevin Warren, CEO of Xerox Canada, John Peoples, President and General Manager of SC Johnson Canada and Ranji Persad, President of NCR Canada who serve as members of the Toronto chapter’s advisory board and Mr. Deepak Chopra, President, Pitney Bowes Canada will be in attendance at a private reception hosted by CIBC later that evening.

The vision of the new Canadian chapter is to increase the economic and intellectual wealth of Black Canadians. “Studies by Catalyst and the Conference Board of Canada indicate that there is still a need to increase diversity in Corporate Canada” said Knights. “It’s great to see our vision resonating with the corporate and academic communities.” The new chapter has already gained strong support from top ranked Canadian business schools - the Schulich School of Business, the Rotman School of Management, the Richard Ivey School of Business and the Ted Rogers School of Management.

Focused on economic development of the broader community, the new organization has wasted no time in setting their goals “We are targeting to host the NBMBAA annual conference in 2013, which would bring over 12,000 professionals, recruiters, and students to the greater Toronto area making it North America’s largest development, recruiting and networking event for Black professionals” said Ivan Francis, Toronto chapter’s Vice President of Strategy and Marketing. “We are also in the process of rolling out our Leaders of Tomorrow™ program, which will focus on providing mentoring to at risk youth.”

**Launch Event Details:**

Where: TSX Broadcast Centre, 130 King Street West, Toronto

Time: 9:00 a.m. with the market opening at 9:30 a.m.

**About NBMBAA Toronto:**

As a professional membership organization of Black graduates with MBAs, advanced degrees, and entrepreneurs, the mission of the Toronto Chapter is to increase the number as well as the diversity of successful Blacks in Canadian businesses by:

- Providing innovative community programs to stimulate intellectual and economic growth
- Building partnerships with key stakeholders who help facilitate this growth
- Increasing awareness and facilitating access to graduate management education programs and career opportunities in management fields

The long-term goal of NBMBAA Toronto is to grow Canadian chapters nationwide. NBMBAA Toronto membership is open to business professionals, entrepreneurs, and MBA and business students. For more: [www.nbmbaa.ca](http://www.nbmbaa.ca)



**About NBMBAA Inc.:**

The National Black MBA Association, Inc. ® (NBMBAA®) is a nonprofit organization of MBAs, business professionals, entrepreneurs and MBA students. With thousands of members working in both private and public sectors worldwide, we share a commitment to education and business – the two principal keys to the economic development of the Black community. NBMBAA® represents the most powerful network of individuals and partners dedicated to increasing corporate diversity, access to capital and intellectual advancement. We provide access to knowledge and success through our five channels of engagement: education, career, leadership, entrepreneurship and lifestyle. With nearly 8,000 members in 43 chapters across the United States and Canada and an interest group in England, NBMBAA® represents a dynamic group of educated, accomplished business leaders.

[www.nbmbaa.org](http://www.nbmbaa.org)

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