

10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians 2010 - NEWS RELEASE

Prime Minister Harper meets Canada's most influential Hispanics

4th annual Hispanic awards launched with FOCAL and DFAIT

Ottawa, May 27, 2010 – For the first time today, a delegation of influential Hispanic Canadians from across Canada met with the Prime Minister of Canada, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper. The delegation of winners from the “10 most influential Hispanic Canadians” awards program raised issues of importance to the Hispanic community with the Prime Minister in his office, including a request for a resolution declaring April as Hispanic Heritage month in Canada and support for procurement opportunities related to the 2015 Pan-American Games.

The delegates attended a speech by Mexican President Felipe Calderon, were publicly recognized during the Parliament's Question Period by the Hon. Randy Hoback, and held a private meeting with James Lambert, Director General for Latin America and the Caribbean at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of Canada. The program was supported by the Ottawa-based think-tank Canadian Foundation for the Americas (FOCAL) and its director Carlo Dade.

The “10 most influential Hispanic Canadians” national awards program is organized by the Canadian Hispanic Business Association (CHBA) with the support of its main sponsor Scotiabank. Award winners represent thirteen Spanish-speaking countries living in five different Canadian provinces. The Hispanic delegation included Esteban Lasso, Dr. Carlos Morillo, Dr. Ivar Mendez, Johnny Campuzano, Dr. Julio Torres-Recinos, Lita Gonzalez-Dickey, Dr. Marlinda Freire, Mario Perez, Dr. Carmen Romero, Dr. Marco A. Guzman and Oscar A. Jofre Jr, and led by the awards organizer Mauricio Ospina.