

MOVING FORWARD WITH VISION

GUESTS WINE, DINE & NETWORK AT QIBC'S SPECTACULAR 2^ND GALA

'An exquisite affair' is certainly an apt description of the Quebec India Business Council's 2nd annual Gala held at the Delta Centre-Ville on March 10th 2007.

Hosted by the eloquent **Francine Blackburn**, the evening's master of ceremonies, the lavish gala brought together 200+ of QIBC's membership and their guests to wine, dine and network amidst an evening of live jazz music, soothing cocktails, delicious dinner, and fabulous dancing.

Keynote speakers included the **Honorable Mr. Raymond Bachand**, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export, who recounted his delightful experiences recently visiting India in November 2006, as part of an international Trade Mission hosted in part by QIBC.

Mercedes Beaulieu, Chairman of QIBC, spoke of QIBC's mission to promote and foster an exchange of contacts and opportunities among entrepreneurs in Canada and India. 'India is at the top of everyone's agenda!' stated **Beaulieu**.

Mr Gilbert Thibeault, Vice-President of Desjardins Group, spoke at length of Desjardins' commitment to the South Asian community and stressed support for QIBC's mandate. The Gala also marked the first time QIBC presented a number of bursaries to Indo-Canadian students for outstanding academic accomplishment. **Mr Gilbert Thibeault**, led the bursary ceremony, presenting certificates and cheques.

'We are very proud of these students and their accomplishments,' stated **Ashwin Mussai**, Treasurer of QIBC. 'Their future success will be our success – and we must nurture them along the way.'

Ida Crasto, Member of the Board of Directors of QIBC, then spoke with heart-felt affection and thanked **Mr. Denis Dubreuil**, VP of Business Development, Fédération des caisses Desjardins du Québec, for his unfailing support of QIBC's vision, and presented Mr. Dubreuil with a lovely silk painting from India.

In closing, **Mecedes Beaulieu** credited strong support from business and government sectors for QIBC's ongoing success and leadership. Mme. Beaulieu cited Desjardins, Quality Inn (Dorval) and Anderson Sima Maritime Ltd, among QIBC's chief benefactors.

'Thank you for your continued support,' **Beaulieu** announced, 'we are here to serve the community. Together we can!'