



For Immediate Release: Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life Toronto 2008 raises over \$400,000

Toronto, 23rd September – On Sunday, 14th September, the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) was proud to host over 4000 walkers and supporters for the 2008 Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life Toronto. This year marked the 20th anniversary of the AIDS Walk for Life in Toronto.

Although pledges are still coming in, to date just over **\$400,000** has been raised. Proceeds support the many programs and services offered by ACT.

“It was a great day and everyone enjoyed themselves. However, it was also a day to remember the reasons why we walk: to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and to raise funds to help provide support services for those living with HIV/AIDS. Everyone has their own reason why they walked; collectively we made a strong statement!” said Michael Mitchell, Chair of the Walk Steering Committee.

This year the route took participants past the AIDS Memorial in Cawthra Park, where they could observe a moment of silence and lay red carnations in memory of those have been lost to HIV/AIDS over the years. “Having walkers pass by the AIDS Memorial is a poignant reminder that HIV/AIDS has had, and continues to have, a huge impact here in Toronto” states Lori Lucier, Executive Director of ACT. “With almost 16,000 Torontonians currently living with HIV/AIDS and two new HIV infections each day, our work is as important as ever. Funds raised will allow ACT to continue to provide its wide range of programs and services for people living with HIV/AIDS, their families, friends and partners, as well as our ever important HIV prevention work.

ACT thanks all participants, volunteers and those who donated, as well as our local and national corporate sponsors. Your participation and support are a valued contribution to the event’s success.

The Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life Toronto was held in conjunction with over 50 Walks in communities across Canada, which took place the week of September 14-21, 2008.

Donations to the Scotiabank AIDS Walk for Life Toronto can still be made on-line at www.aidswalkforlifetoronto.ca, or in person at ACT’s offices at 399 Church Street, 4th floor, Toronto.

About ACT

Founded in 1983, the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) provides information, as well as practical, emotional and social support services to men, women and youth living with HIV/AIDS in Toronto. ACT also helps people with HIV/AIDS to re-enter the work force, and offers information and support to friends, partners, and families of people living with HIV/AIDS. ACT works with gay and bisexual men, youth and women at increased risk for HIV infection, and partners with Portuguese-speaking communities, to develop and deliver HIV/AIDS prevention programs. Visit www.actoronto.org for more information about ACT’s programs and services.

For more information, or to arrange for interviews, please contact:

Jasmine Taulla, Special Events Manger

AIDS Committee of Toronto

416-340-8484 ext 249

jtaulla@actoronto.org

www.aidswalkforlifetoronto.ca