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## **IIROC supports establishment of new Canadian Foundation for the Advancement of Investor Rights**

**September 29, 2008 (Toronto, Ontario)** – The Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (IIROC) has provided funding to support the establishment of a national independent organization, the [Canadian Foundation for the Advancement of Investor Rights](#).

The Boards of Directors of IIROC's predecessor organizations --- the Investment Dealers Association of Canada (IDA) and Market Regulation Services Inc. (RS) --- granted one time start-up funding for the Foundation from the IDA and RS discretionary and restricted funds. These funds were derived from disciplinary hearing fines levied against firms and individuals regulated by the IDA and RS, and funding for the Foundation was provided as a special project intended to benefit the investing public and the Canadian capital markets.

Creation of the Foundation supports a recommendation of The Task Force to Modernize Securities Legislation in Canada (funded by the IDA Discretionary Fund in 2005). Research commissioned by the Task Force found that while there were many committed and active individual consumer advocates in Canada, larger, established national consumer advocacy bodies have not been active in securities regulation. The Task Force therefore recommended that regulators and others work together to develop a credible, national well-resourced and coherent voice of consumers in Canadian securities regulation.

“The foundation will support a stronger voice for the investor community in Canada which often lacks the legal, accounting and research resources that are available to other stakeholders when they seek to articulate and advance their views,” said IIROC CEO and President Susan Wolburgh Jenah. “Regulators, the investing public and the Canadian capital markets will all benefit from a more diverse and broader input in the development of regulatory policies”.

Over the past years, the IDA and RS have supported a variety of projects through their discretionary funds. In addition to funding the Task Force to Modernize Securities Legislation

in Canada, other recent projects have included funding to help establish the National Registration Database; the RS -DeGroot (now IIROC-DeGroot) Market Structure Conference and Lecture Series; a pending IIROC web based educational program for retail investors on trading on equity marketplaces; and more recently a proposed program to enhance youth financial literacy/capability developed by the Social and Enterprise Development Innovations (SEDI).

IIROC is developing a framework and more detailed criteria for future allocation of IIROC's restricted fund to ensure that the process to allocate these funds is fair and accessible to all stakeholders. Projects will be selected with a view to maximizing the impact of IIROC's investments in the best interests of investors, industry and the capital markets.

IIROC is the national self-regulatory organization which oversees all investment dealers and trading activity on debt and equity marketplaces in Canada. Created in 2008 through the consolidation of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada and Market Regulation Services Inc., IIROC sets high quality regulatory and investment industry standards, protects investors and strengthens market integrity while maintaining efficient and competitive capital markets. IIROC carries out its regulatory responsibilities through setting and enforcing rules regarding the proficiency, business and financial conduct of dealer firms and their registered employees and through setting and enforcing market integrity rules regarding trading activity on Canadian equity marketplaces.