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For Immediate Release**

Equal Voice names Frances Lankin Winner of EVE Award

TORONTO – Equal Voice announces that it has chosen Ms. Frances Lankin, President and CEO of United Way Toronto, to be this year's winner of the EVE Award, given in recognition of her achievements in political life and her efforts to increase the number of women elected in Canada.

Frances Lankin has long been a trailblazer for women in public life. Beginning her career as a prison guard, she achieved early success in leadership positions in the Ontario Public Service Employees Union and within the labour movement. Elected to Queen's Park as a New Democrat in 1990, she was immediately appointed to Bob Rae's cabinet in the first-ever New Democrat government in Ontario. She held four cabinet positions in the Rae government, including Minister of Government Services, Minister of Health, Chair of the Management Board, and Minister of Economic Development and Trade, and gained a reputation as a highly effective and intelligent minister. Ms. Lankin spent 11 years as the MPP for Beaches- East York. Since 2001, she has successfully led United Way Toronto's ambitious transformation to become a leading community-building organization in the city.

"Frances Lankin has had an outstanding career before, during, and after her tenure in elected office" said Donna Dasko, Equal Voice National Vice- Chair. "Throughout her career, she has actively worked to engage more women in leadership positions and has long promoted policies affecting women's equality, including childcare, workplace harassment and employment equity initiatives."

The EVE Award is awarded by Equal Voice to recognize significant achievements by women in political life and efforts to promote women in politics in Canada. Previous EVE Award recipients include Member of Parliament Carolyn Bennett, former Member of Parliament and federal cabinet minister Flora MacDonald, and Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion.

Ms. Lankin will be honoured by Equal Voice and the Canadian Club of Toronto at the third annual Women in Public Life luncheon to be held on May 26, 2008. Tickets may be purchased at: www.canadianclub.org.

Equal Voice is a national, not for profit organization dedicated to promoting the election of more women in Canada, through our national organization, regional chapters and a national youth chapter. For more information please visit www.equalvoice.ca.

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