



media release

READY, SET...NOMINATE!

Ontario schools compete to win big honours for their Profs as nominations begin for TVO's *Big Ideas* Best Lecturer Competition V

Toronto, August 5, 2009 – The dust has barely settled after TVO's 2009 *Big Ideas* Best Lecturer Competition where, for the first time in the history of the competition, a college professor walked away with the title of Ontario's Best Lecturer. Once again, it's time to fan those flames of friendly rivalry and have Ontario's post-secondary schools put their competitive gloves back on, as the search for the province's best professor kicks off again this year with the call for nominations.

Beginning this August, TVO is asking Ontario's post-secondary students and alumni to make their school proud by nominating their favourite lecturers for the title of Ontario's Best Lecturer in the 2010 *Big Ideas* Best Lecturer Competition. Sponsored by TD Insurance Meloche Monnex, nominations for the fifth Best Lecturer Competition will be accepted starting now through to October 12, 2009.

Big Ideas is TVO's popular television program, offering lectures on a variety of thought-provoking topics which range across politics, culture, economics, art history and science. Created to recognize the best and brightest lecturers at Ontario's colleges and universities, the Best Lecturer Competition invites Ontarians to nominate professors whose love of learning has helped to stimulate imaginations, open eyes and push boundaries in institutions of higher learning across the province.

"We at TVO abide by the belief that knowledge matters greatly. At times of rapid and often unsettling change, the role of compelling teachers cannot be underestimated", says Big Ideas producer Wodek Szemberg. "For the past four years, the success of the Best Lecturer Competition series has demonstrated that our viewers are truly engaged with this competition, and feel the need to recognize and reward the lecturers who display their love of knowledge and the pleasure they take in conveying it."

To keep the competitive spirit between university and college campuses alive, TVO upped the ante a few years ago, offering not only much deserved recognition and bragging rights for the winner, but also presenting the winning school with a \$10,000 TD Insurance Meloche Monnex scholarship. Last year, professor Rod Carley beat out nine university lecturers in the final round of competition, garnering the \$10,000 TD Insurance Meloche Monnex scholarship and bragging rights for Canadore College in North Bay. Could a college once again take the title and the scholarship in this year's competition? As an added incentive to encourage nominations from across Ontario's schools, nominators will also automatically be entered into a contest to win one of two iPod Touch devices.

"Great lecturers have great legacies - because they inspire students to be the thought leaders of tomorrow," said Paul Douglas, Vice President, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex. "TD Insurance Meloche Monnex is proud to continue its longstanding commitment to education by sponsoring the *Big Ideas* Best Lecturer Competition – which in turn supports the tradition of great lecturers in Canada."

This year, nominations can be made by: filling out a nomination form at www.tvo.org/bigideas or by sending a written entry or a short video with detailed information on the nominated lecturer to

bl@tvo.org with the subject line "BL 2010 Nomination". In addition, after September 8, nominations will be accepted on the official TVO Best Lecturer Facebook page (address details to be announced). Each entry must include the full name of the professor, the University/College and department where they teach, a short description (between 50 and 100 words) detailing the reason(s) a professor should be nominated and the full name, email, address and telephone number of the person submitting the nomination.

A panel of judges will choose 10 finalists from the nominee list who will then be invited to deliver complete lectures on *Big Ideas* beginning March 6, 2010. Viewers will then be invited to grade each of the finalists and cast their vote for Ontario's next Best Lecturer.

About TVO

TVO is Ontario's public educational media organization and a trusted source of interactive educational content that informs, inspires and stimulates curiosity and thought. TVO's vision is to empower people to be engaged citizens of Ontario through educational media. For more information, visit tvo.org.

About TD Insurance Meloche Monnex

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