

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 29, 2013

Phil Fontaine, O.C., O.M. to receive the Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations

The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) and Sodexo Canada are pleased to announce this year's recipient of the Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations is Phil Fontaine O.C., O.M. He will be recognized for his lifelong dedication to the Aboriginal community at CCAB's 11th annual Vancouver Gala on September 23, 2013.

The Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Relations is presented to a Canadian who has personally contributed, through his or her professional and voluntary commitments, to building bridges between Aboriginal people and Canada's business community.

Phil Fontaine has been instrumental in facilitating change and advancement for First Nations people from the time he was first elected to public office as Chief, at the age of 28. He is a proud member of the Sagkeeng First Nation in Manitoba and still plays an active role in the support of his community.

In the early 1980's he was elected to the position of Manitoba Regional Chief for the Assembly of First Nations. When his term expired in 1991, he was elected Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs where he served three consecutive terms. In 1997 he stepped onto the national stage where he was elected National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations for an unprecedented three terms in office.

Sodexo Canada is pleased to partner with CCAB to create an award that recognizes Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal leaders who have championed positive change for the Aboriginal community through business. Dean Johnson, President of Sodexo Canada, says "Phil Fontaine is an articulate advocate for the future of Canada and for our indigenous peoples. We are proud to recognize his tenacious and solution-oriented leadership with this award."

JP Gladu, President and CEO of CCAB says, "Phil Fontaine has been a role model for the Aboriginal community as well as the Canadian population. CCAB is proud to be recognizing Mr. Fontaine for his dedication to building bridges across sectors. He truly is the kind of leader the Award for Excellence was designed to honour."

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For more information about the CCAB and an overview of the Award for Excellence, visit www.ccab.com

About the Canadian Council of Aboriginal Business

The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) was founded in 1984 by a small group of visionary business and community leaders led by Murray Koffler. CCAB is committed to the full participation of Aboriginal people in Canada's economy. A national non-profit organization, CCAB offers knowledge, resources, and programs to both mainstream and Aboriginal owned companies that foster economic opportunities for Aboriginal people and businesses across Canada.

About Sodexo in Canada

Sodexo has been delivering On-Site Services in Canada for over 40 years. Recognized as a strategic partner, Sodexo Canada has consolidated its position by providing a range of Quality of Life Services for clients, their employees and visitors in the corporate, education, healthcare and remote sites segments. Delivering more than 850 different food and facilities management solutions across 750+ sites, Sodexo is a market leader in Canada in terms of revenue and consumers served and has been recognized as a top employer for the past three consecutive years. Sodexo Canada is proud to have created the Sodexo Foundation, an independent charitable organization that has donated more than 900,000 meals to at risk youth in Canada since it was founded in 2001. Follow us on Twitter @SodexoCanada

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