

Canada's Most Influential Businesswomen

By Donna Messer

Canada's businesswomen are influential. They have the ability to change things. The choices are unlimited in how they can make a difference, and women with a sense of purpose *are* making a significant impact on business—and society.

Who are these women, and how do we recognize and honour them? They are women in business, as well as mothers, teachers, and role models who, during their busy lives, have truly made a difference.

As the Managing Editor of *BusinessWoman Canada* magazine, I had the chance to interview many influential women who have made an impact on the lives of others in Canada. Now, with the encouragement from the publisher of Enterprise Magazine, I am looking for "Canada's Most Influential Businesswomen", so that I can write about them in the January 2007 issue of this magazine.

These influential women will come from any walk of life: business, science, medicine, education, entertainment, sports, or government. They will have a mission and they will have followed through—they will have made their mark in Canada.

I am excited about this special feature in the magazine, for it will provide role models and resources. This will be a collection of success stories that will inspire and challenge all of us to live our dreams.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Example is the best lesson there is." That in one brief sentence is what this special feature will be about.

I will be connecting with women's associations across the country, searching for stories of women who have been influential and made a difference in the lives of their peers and those in need.

As women of the world, we all know that Oprah Winfrey has been a woman of influence. When asked for her top ten rules for success she offered the following:

1. Don't live your life to please others.
2. Don't depend on forces outside of yourself to get ahead.
3. Seek harmony and compassion in your business and your personal life.
4. Get rid of the backstabbers—surround yourself only with people who will lift you higher.
5. Be nice.
6. Rid yourself of your addictions—whether they are food, alcohol, drugs, or behavioural habits.
7. Surround yourself with people who are as smart as or smarter than you.
8. If money is your motivation, forget it!
9. Never hand over your power to someone else.
10. Be persistent in pursuing your dreams.

Who do you think should be considered for "Canada's Most Influential Businesswomen"? Send your choice to me, Donna Messer, using the Nomination Form. Nominations are opened to Canadian residents only. Deadline for submissions is November 1, 2006