



For Immediate Release:

The Mosaic Institute Presents an Evening with Sir Ronald Cohen, Second Event in its *Building Bridges Speakers' Series*

Toronto – April 7, 2009. The Mosaic Institute was proud to host Sir Ronald Cohen, Founder of the Portland Trust, at the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies on Monday night. This was the second session in the Mosaic Institute's 2009 Speakers' Series, *Building Bridges in Canada: New Perspectives on People and Peace*, presented in collaboration with the Canadian Centre for Diversity.

Monday's program was entitled *The Business of Making Peace in the Middle East*. Sir Ronald presented a keynote address about his work encouraging the private sector to invest in the Palestinian territories. His presentation focused on the importance of viewing economic development as an essential component of peacebuilding, one which is often neglected or misunderstood by politicians and diplomats. The event was attended by approximately 100 invited guests from Canada's Arab communities and the Jewish diaspora.

Sir Ronald Cohen is a Jewish businessman born in Egypt who calls the United Kingdom home. He is considered "the father of British venture capital" and is a globally-recognized expert in the area of entrepreneurship. He is also an innovator in the areas of social finance and investment, and is passionately committed to achieving a sustainable peace in the Middle East.

The evening's host was Susan Ormiston of CBC News. Ms. Ormiston's reporting from such places as South Africa, Lebanon and Afghanistan has earned her two Gemini Awards. Following Sir Ronald's presentation, Ms. Ormiston conducted a public interview of him, and then expertly facilitated a question and answer period involving the entire audience.

The next installment in the Speakers' Series – entitled *Making Peace Personal* - will take place on June 3rd. It features Janet Wallach of Seeds of Peace and Dr. Arnold Noyek of CISEPO, and will be hosted by Evan Solomon of CBC News.

Building Bridges in Canada: New Perspectives on People and Peace is a six-part Speakers' Series running from March to November, 2009. It endeavours to bring together leaders of those ethnocultural and faith-based communities

in Canada with strong historical and personal connections to the Middle East with an eye to identifying common ground and committing to collaborative peacebuilding activities. It is proudly presented by the Mosaic Institute working in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Diversity.

For more information, please contact:
John Monahan, Executive Director
Tel: (416) 644-6000 X620
Email: jm@mosaicinstitute.ca