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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Northern Lights Canada - Ontario Accessibility Award Recipient Striving to Build an Accessible Ontario**

Northern Lights Canada (NLC) is proud to have received the Excellence Canada – Ontario Accessibility Award.

Excellence Canada, formerly the National Quality Institute, is an Enabling Change partner of the Government of Ontario. Their purpose is to help private sector and not-for-profit organizations become aware of and implement the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

To promote greater accessibility, Excellence Canada is recognizing and awarding organizations that meet and exceed the legislated standards of the AODA. The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, the Honourable David C. Onley, is the honorary patron of the Excellence Canada – Ontario Accessibility Awards Program.

When NLC chose to be a leader in providing services to persons with disabilities, we understood that we must go beyond meeting legislated requirements. As a result, NLC appointed an “Accessibility Champion” in 2009 to spearhead their accessibility initiatives and be the voice of NLC’s accessibility commitment.

NLC has also been paying attention to accessibility issues outside the realm of Customer Service, including the pursuit of early compliance with the remaining AODA standards. For example, in 2010 we conducted an accessibility audit of our 21 facilities to guide our work on improvements and accommodations, well in advance of the AODA Built Environment Standards being passed.

NLC staff have participated in a variety of Accessibility Awareness events in our communities. For more information on the AODA Compliance and the Ontario Accessibility award given to NLC please visit <http://www.accessibilityconsultants.ca/customer-service>