



Biography

February 2009

Charles S. Coffey, O.C.

Community leadership is a passion for Charlie Coffey—and this means reaching out to people in all walks of life, understanding cultures, building relationships, bridging gaps and speaking up about issues that need a stronger voice and accelerated action plan. Coffey's proven record and reputation in private, public and not-for-profit sectors across the country is a testament to this champion of diversity, children and early child development, young people and education, Aboriginal peoples, women entrepreneurs and women seeking public office.

The Leadership

Charlie Coffey is chair of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, Canadian Centre for Diversity; vice-chair, The Ontario Trillium Foundation; champion, The Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada; member, National Committee of Aga Khan Foundation Canada; and director of the Council for Early Child Development, The Mosaic Institute, Toronto City Summit Alliance Steering Committee, Sustainable Development Technology Canada, Arctic Children and Youth Foundation and the Empire Club of Canada.

The Career

Coffey started his 44-year career with RBC Financial Group in native Woodstock, New Brunswick. He is the former executive vice president, government affairs and business development for RBC. Prior to that position, Charlie headed business banking in Canada for five years. He also led three regional headquarters: Manitoba, Metro Toronto and Ontario.

The Awards

The Canadian Women's International Business Initiative Award from the Canadian Embassy in the United States for RBC's outstanding support of businesswomen

The Award of Distinction from the Public Affairs Association of Canada

The Humanitarian Award for Community Service from Yorktown Family Services (Toronto)

The Centre of Excellence for Early Childhood Development medal for exceptional contribution to early child development

The Honours

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs named Coffey an Honourary Chief for his support of First Nations, economic development and self-sufficiency.

An Honourary Doctor of Laws degree was conferred upon Coffey by Trent University for his "extraordinary contributions to society through community leadership."

Coffey received the Order of St. Michael for his work in support of St. Michael's College School in Toronto.

Charlie Coffey is an Officer of the Order of Canada.

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