



MEDIA ADVISORY – For Immediate Distribution

1,400 Gather for 44th Annual Cardinal's Dinner

Canada's largest annual dinner brings together religious, political & business leaders

TORONTO (November 14, 2023) – 1,400 guests from across the Greater Toronto Area will gather at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (North Building) Tuesday evening for the 44th annual Cardinal's Dinner. Hosted for the first time by The Most Rev. Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, the celebration is Canada's largest annual community dinner.

Founded by Gerald Emmett Cardinal Carter, the late archbishop believed passionately that local leaders from the world of business, politics and religion should be brought together in fellowship and fraternity to strengthen the communities in which they work, live and worship.

Confirmed head table guests for this year's dinner include:

Dinner Chair, Hugh MacKinnon, Chair & Chief Executive Officer at Bennett Jones

His Excellency, The Most. Rev. Ivan Jurkovič, Vatican Apostolic Nuncio to Canada

His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop-Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Toronto

The Honourable Filomena Tassi, Federal Cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

Her Worship, Olivia Chow, Mayor of Toronto

Chief Myron Demkiw, Toronto Police Service

The evening begins with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7 p.m. and a keynote address by Archbishop Leo. The event is primarily a community dinner with fundraising as a secondary goal. Yet, throughout the years, over \$6 million has been raised to support local charities that are not fully funded by traditional sources. In 2022, 34 charities benefited from the dinner proceeds.

The Archdiocese of Toronto is one of the most diverse faith communities in North America, serving as the spiritual home to two million Catholics, celebrating Mass in more than 30 languages each week at 225 parishes.

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