



Generous donation: Pierre Barbeau, Executive Director, Help the Aged (Canada) with Michael Castledine, Nesbitt Burns Division Manager; Betty Gittens, Help the Aged Board member; Whit Tucker, Nesbitt Burns Vice-President and Investment Advisor, and Rudy Gittens, Help the Aged Board member.

BMO Nesbitt Burns makes single largest corporate donation ever to Help the Aged (Canada)

While many companies are supporting children's programs, BMO Nesbitt Burns chose to help seniors in need.

Statistics show that 647,000 seniors in Canada 65 and over live below the poverty line, says Pierre Barbeau, executive director of Help the Aged (Canada). "BMO Nesbitt Burns was concerned about the elderly poor and wanted to help out."

Help the Aged is a non-denominational non-profit international development organization. It is the only registered charity in Canada dedicated exclusively to assisting elderly people in both Canada and the developing world since 1975.

"We had some discussions with BMO Nesbitt Burns last year about our program called 'Elderly in Need,'" says Mr. Barbeau. "It was a pilot program we started in Ottawa six years ago, giving one-time grants to elderly people living below the poverty line who are referred to us by social workers and health professionals. We provide up to

\$500 a person to pay the balance of charges for assistive devices such as wheelchairs or hearing aids or eyeglasses."



Seniors living in poverty like John, with Help the Aged youth intern Caroline Neville, will greatly benefit from the Elderly In Need Program support provided by Nesbitt Burns.

Help the Aged approached Whit Tucker of BMO Nesbitt Burns to talk about expanding that program throughout the country, based on the Ottawa success.

The financial institution offered to fund the program, and recently presented a cheque to Help the Aged for \$50,000.

Thanks to the large donation, the program will be expanded early in the new year.

Among those who have been helped in the Ottawa area recently are John, 69, who suffered a heart attack and above knee amputation as a result of diabetes. John needed an electric wheelchair but couldn't afford to pay the 25 per cent not covered by the provincial government. Help the Aged paid the amount required so that John could benefit immediately from his new wheelchair.

Please contact Help the Aged at 613-232-0727 or visit www.helptheaged.ca.