

## Wellington West again named as one of 50 Best Employers in Canada

*Ranked as one of top two employers for third consecutive year*

TORONTO, Jan. 2, 2008 / CNW - Wellington West Holdings Inc., a privately held, employee-owned financial services firm, has been named as No.2 Best Employer in Canada in the 2008 Hewitt Associates / Report on Business Magazine, 50 Best Employers survey. This marks the third consecutive year that Wellington West has taken the No.1 or No.2 spot.

"We are grateful to once again be named as a top employer," said Kish Kapoor, president, Wellington West Holdings Inc. "This achievement is an endorsement for the strategy we have been following - hiring the top talent in our industry, equipping them with the tools and resources they need and liberating them to do what they do best."

Wellington West was named the No.1 employer in Canada by the 50 Best Employers survey in January 2007 and No.2 employer in January 2006. The rankings are based on a cross-country survey of employees, corporate leaders and human resources professionals.

"There is a spirit of ownership at Wellington West that we feel gives us a unique personality in an otherwise undifferentiated market of financial institutions," says Mr. Kapoor. "We are committed to transparency of our business strategy and vision and we encourage all of our employees to participate fully in the company as owners.

"This award is an excellent way to begin the year for a team of people who work so hard together, who have fun together and genuinely enjoy being partners."

### **About Wellington West**

Wellington West is a full-service independent investment dealer specializing in family wealth management and capital markets services to institutions and corporate issuers in certain niche markets. With more than 500 employees across Canada, Wellington West provides investment management, financial planning, insurance, asset management and capital markets services. Wellington West is an employee-owned company. Founded in 1993 and based in Winnipeg, Wellington West has become one of the fastest-growing independent full-service investment firms in Canada, with more than \$9.7 billion in assets under administration. Among its many corporate achievements, Wellington West was named the No.1 Best Employer in Canada in 2007, one of Canada's Fastest Growing Companies in 2007 and one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies for 2006. In addition, Wellington West retained its No.1 ranking for a record fourth consecutive year in the 2007 Brokerage Report Card survey and was named No.2 Independent Investment Dealer in the 2006 Financial Post / Starmine Top Analyst Awards, along with No.1 analyst ranking in Oil, Gas and Consumable Fuels, No.1 in Business Trusts and No.2 in IT Equipment in the top earnings estimators category.