Canadians for Lucene Charles

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Another Black Eye For Canadian Immigration

Single Mother to be torn from her three Canadian Born Children on Family Day

February 10, 2012- Toronto, ON - Lucene Charles, mother and sole provider to four children, three of whom are Canadian citizens, will be deported to St. Vincent on Family Day (Monday February 20, 2012) with her five year old daughter unless the government grants her a stay of removal. If a stay of removal is granted, it could allow the family to stay together in Canada while their Humanitarian and Compassionate application is evaluated.

If this appeal is not successful, Charles faces an untenable decision. She can either leave her three Canadian sons (14, 13 and 11 years old) to the uncertainty of the Canadian foster care system, or bring them to live in poverty in the poorest country in the Eastern Caribbean where her prospects to provide for this family of five appear dim.

Lucene Charles is a contributor to Canadian Society. She is gainfully employed as an Administrative Assistant in the Department of Physiotherapy and Therapeutics at a local hospital in Hamilton, where her contributions are recognized in a letter of support from managers, colleagues, local union and the Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Lucene and her family are also very actively engaged in the community. Lucene volunteers extensively and is active in her church. Her children are engaged, and thriving in their schools and participate in extra circular activities like cadets, scouting and minor sports. Yet, this difficult circumstance is taking a toll on these young lives- a burden no Canadian citizen, especially a child, should have to endure.

The hundreds of letters of support written on her behalf, along with countless emails and phone calls to local MPs and the office of Immigration Minister Jason Kenney, bears witness to the reach of Lucene's impact in her community.

Says Charles, "I am just asking for the opportunity to remain in Canada, and have the Ministry of Immigration evaluate my Humanitarian and Compassionate application fairly, as it has never been done. My family meets all the criteria for a successful application on Humanitarian & Compassionate grounds. As a mother, I have to fight for what is best for my children. This is their home. I don't know what awaits us. I am terrified for my children. It is unbearable."

Ms. Charles' legal counsel, Jackie Swaisland, an associate at Waldman and Associates, is acting as counsel for the stay of removal proceedings with the goal of having a stay of removal granted until the Ministry of Immigration evaluates Ms. Charles' Humanitarian and Compassionate application.

Citizen's action group, Canadians for Lucene Charles, also stands in opposition to Lucene's deportation and is calling on

Minister Jason Kenney, Citizenship and Immigration Canada and the Canadian Border Services Agency to do their parts to prevent this brewing travesty. The group has also started an online petition that fast approaches 6,000 signatures.

Canadians for Lucene Charles invite media representatives to attend a press conference on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 1pm (location TBA). Lucene Charles and her children will be joined by MP David Christopherson (Hamilton Centre) and counsel Jackie Swaisland, Waldman and Associates, and will appeal to federal authorities to suspend the deportation so that Ms. Charles can pursue a path to permanent residency.

Further information on Lucene Charles, including links to the online petition and Lucene's video interview, can be found online at: **http://lucenecharles.wordpress.com/**

Please direct all media requests to: Sarah Wayland Phone: 905 522 5439 Email: canadiansforlucenecharles@gmail.com