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Vancouver Opera's development team develops

Vancouver, BC ~ Vancouver Opera is pleased to announce new appointments to its development team. Joining the VO staff, under Chief Development Officer Jeff Sodowsky, are **Gail Johnson** (Development Manager, Corporate Relations), **Caroline Hay** (Development Coordinator, Special Events), **Carmen Murphy** (Development Manager, Individual Giving) and **Pedzi Nleya** (Development Coordinator, Individual Giving).

Gail Johnson continues with Vancouver Opera after successfully managing two important fundraising events: the season-closing gala *Bravo!* and the intimate *Purse-ussion*. Ms. Johnson has extensive experience in building corporate and community partnerships for such respected organizations as the Rick Hansen Man In Motion Foundation, SOS Children's Village BC, and Judith Marcuse Projects. Her background includes senior positions with Medisys Health Group, Health Management Resource Group, The Ottawa Carleton Regional Health Council, and the BC Royal Commission on Health Care and Costs.

Caroline Hay comes to Vancouver Opera with a degree in kinesiology, medal-winning achievements in intercollegiate track and field athletics and coaching, and experience in customer-centred work in medical, athletic and high-end food retailers. She will work closely with development staff and board committees in supporting Vancouver Opera's exemplary special events.

Carmen Murphy joins Vancouver Opera after thirty-two years with CIBC, including fourteen years as a branch manager and personal banking account manager. She has made substantial contributions to the community as a volunteer: she has served as president of the Burnaby Art Gallery, as Chair of the RCMP Community Consultative Group, in Burnaby, and as an auxiliary RCMP constable.

Pedzi Nleya has a background in financial management and analysis and in accounting, in Canada, the United Kingdom and Africa. Her community involvement has included hands-on work helping to build a shelter for orphaned children with HIV/AIDS in Botswana. She has also served as a VO volunteer.

"This team has been assembled to build on the successes of previous Vancouver Opera development staff and volunteers," said Chief Development Officer Jeff Sodowsky. "Its members' varied backgrounds, achievements and skills will enable Vancouver Opera to focus and capitalize on the opportunities that are in store as the company's 50th anniversary approaches."

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