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For Immediate Release

COACHING INDUSTRY BOOMING - ICF MEMBERSHIP TOPS 10,000

Lexington, KY- The International Coach Federation (ICF) headquartered in Lexington, Ky., USA, was the first global association to represent business and personal coaches. Today it is the largest coaching association in the world. As of May 1, 2006, the ICF membership exceeded 10,000 members in 80 countries.

In 1999 (the first year member numbers are available) ICF had 2,122 members. From 1999 to today, the ICF's membership has experienced an almost 400 percent growth. Today, 44 percent of the ICF membership is located outside the United States, compared with only 15 percent in 1999.

No one could have predicted the amazing growth of the coaching profession in the world," said Pamela Richarde, MCC, ICF President. "We are thrilled that so many people are embracing coaching and understanding its tremendous impact on business and personal growth."

The Vancouver Island Coaches Association (VI Coaches) in Victoria, BC has 44 members. VI Coaches was founded in 2004 as a legal Non-Profit Society with a mandate to be Vancouver Island's resource for business and personal coaching.

VI Coaches provides high quality learning experiences from a coaching perspective for coaches, professionals, corporations, consultants, entrepreneurs, and executives, such as the upcoming *Coaching and Learning Retreat* co-produced with the Vancouver Island Chapter of the Canadian Society for Training and Development on June 3, 2006 at Tigh-Na-Mara resort in Parksville. The full day event features speaker, Ian Chisholm, discussing *Courage in the Shadow of Adversity*, followed by 4 break-out sessions designed for professionals wanting to increase their skills in training and coaching and create a better marketing edge for their services. More information at <http://www.cstd.ca/events/events.html?id=339>.

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The ICF offers the only independent coaching credentialing program that is recognized globally. The ICF credential is awarded to professional coaches who have demonstrated that they meet stringent education and experience requirements. ICF strongly recommends that consumers choose an ICF credentialed coach to ensure their coach is experienced and professional. “A coach who has earned an ICF credential has shown an extraordinary commitment to personal excellence and the coaching profession as a whole,” said Richarde.

The International Coach Federation sets the industry standard of excellence and integrity for professional coaching worldwide. ICF has more than 10,000 members in 80 countries. The International Coach Federation developed the only worldwide recognized independent credential in the industry to ensure the professionalism of coaches. For more information on ICF, visit www.coachfederation.org. For more information on VI Coaches visit www.vicoaches.org.

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