



Boys & Girls Clubs of Canada  
Clubs Garçons & Filles du Canada

## MEDIA RELEASE

# Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada Alumnus, Brian Melo, Wins Canadian Idol title!

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARKHAM, ON (September 12, 2007)** – Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada (BGCC) congratulates Boys and Girls Club alumnus, Brian Melo, on winning the 2007 Canadian Idol title! Thousands of children and youth at Boys and Girls Clubs across Canada cast their vote for Melo on Monday night after he sang his way to the top spot and last night was named Canada's next Idol.

Melo, a 25-year-old native of Hamilton, Ontario and alumnus of the Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club, joined the Club when he was ten-years-old. He lived just blocks from the Club and attended a variety of daily after-school activities during his formative years.

In addition to his strong family, hard work and perseverance, Melo credits the Boys and Girls Clubs with having provided him with positive influences and experiences that helped him to believe in his abilities and achieve his goals of becoming an accomplished singer and musician. "When I was a kid, I used to go to the Boys and Girls Clubs where they helped me become the person I am today," said Melo.

"We are so proud of Brian's accomplishments," says Pam Jolliffe, President and CEO, Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada. "It's wonderful that he won the Canadian Idol title. But with or without the title, Brian is an outstanding role model to all of the young people who attend our Clubs. He has shown them that if you work hard and believe in yourself, you can achieve your dreams whatever they might be. It's also a great example of the difference it can make to have adults around who encourage and support you as you're growing up," added Jolliffe.

### **About Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada**

Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada is a leading provider of programs that support the healthy physical, educational and social development of more than 200,000 children, youth and their families each year. In 700 community locations across Canada, clubs offer after-school programs in physical recreation, technology, the arts, personal growth and more. Many clubs also provide meals, emergency shelter, family support programs and other supports to children and youth at risk. Boys and Girls Clubs have been helping young Canadians to discover, develop and achieve their potential, for over 100 years. To learn more, visit: [www.bgccan.com](http://www.bgccan.com).

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