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**Holiday Entertaining 101**

**By News Canada**

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**by: News Canada**

(NC)—The holiday season is the time of year filled with entertaining, parties and social gatherings. Whether planning a small, intimate gathering or a large family affair, it is often the host's attention to detail that impresses guests the most. Creating a festive atmosphere, planning ahead and preparing delicious dishes will ensure guests have a memorable experience. This holiday season, follow these simple tips, guaranteed to delight visitors and simplify holiday entertaining.

**Create Atmosphere**

- Limit the size of the gathering, consider several intimate parties rather than a large open house
- Add distinctive touches that guests will remember. Creative centre pieces, colourful drinks, special serving dishes and bright napkins will all assist in creating an inviting atmosphere
- Create ambience with candles and festive music or string indoor lights or ribbon around house plants and stairways
- Treat guests to small favours that they can take home as mementos of the evening (i.e. a small decorative candle or colourful ornament)

**Be Prepared**

- Consider hiring someone to assist with set-up and clean-up during the event. A neighbourhood teen or college student would be grateful for the extra income around the holidays
- Develop a check list and timeline of things to do before the event to ensure that party elements are well-organized

## Holiday Entertaining 101

- Prepare food, beverages, décor the day before so you can spend more time with guests
- Set up an area where guests can fix their own drinks. Use a cooler with ice to keep beverages chilled and free up the refrigerator

### Keep Food Simple and Beautiful

- Plan a combination of hot and cold foods to decrease preparation time
- Prepare popular, tasty appetizers that are visually pleasing such as Knorr's Classic Spinach Dip in a pumpernickel bread bowl
- Hors d'oeuvres provide guests with a sampling of numerous cuisines and offer variety. Pay special attention to offer meatless and non-dairy edibles for guests with religious, vegetarian and

lactose-intolerant restrictions

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## Money Savvy 101

### By News Canada

(NC)–Life is full of transitions, from high school to university, from first job to the next. Each of these changes brings with it a financial 'first': How much will it cost to go to college or university? What are my rights when I lease an apartment? Can I afford a car? Do I need insurance? What kind of financial services should I have? Where should I invest my money?

Until now it has not been easy to get objective answers to all of these questions in one place. Now you can visit Consumer Connection's Web site at <http://consumer.ic.gc.ca> that has been created by Industry Canada's Office of Consumer Affairs. It has been creatively produced to give Canadian consumers great information without sacrificing a fun and interactive setting.

Money Savvy 101 is a product that provides answers to all your personal finance questions. The answers are simple and straightforward, containing in-depth information, entertaining animation and links to other great Web sites. Money Savvy 101 allows consumers to see how much things actually cost, how to deal with landlords that are giving you a hard time, and all other types of questions or situations.

Consumer Connection (

) is an award-winning Web site. It provides rapid

access to consumer information, powerful tools to cut research time, and many useful links to consumer and other organizations. Canadians can access Consumer Connection from home, the public library, community access points or from Government of Canada, provincial and territorial service outlets. For a variety of information on everything from bank fees, to privacy rights, to the latest scams or frauds, this is the place to go.

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