

CENTRAL FUND ENTERS UNDERWRITING AGREEMENT

**For Immediate Release to
Marketwire and
U. S. Disclosure Circuit**

TSX SYMBOLS: CEF.A and CEF.U
AMEX SYMBOLS: CEF

TORONTO, Ontario (July 15, 2008) - Central Fund of Canada Limited (“CFOC”) of Calgary, Alberta announced today that it has entered into an underwriting agreement with CIBC World Markets Inc. under which the underwriter has agreed to buy and sell to the public, in Canada and in the United States under the multijurisdictional disclosure system, 9,630,000 Class A Shares of CFOC. CFOC has also granted the underwriter the right to increase the size of the offering by end of day today by up to an additional 1,485,000 Class A Shares. The offering will be made under a supplement to CFOC’s US\$750,000,000 base shelf prospectus dated March 31, 2008.

The purchase price of U.S.\$13.50 per Class A Share is expected to result in gross proceeds of approximately U.S.\$130 million. Substantially all the net proceeds of the offering have been committed to purchase gold and silver bullion, in keeping with the policies established by the board of directors of CFOC, for settlement at closing of the issue. The additional capital is expected to reduce the annual expense ratio in favour of the shareholders of CFOC.

Closing is expected to occur on or about July 22, 2008.

CFOC has filed a base shelf prospectus and registration statement with the Canadian securities regulatory authorities and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) which will serve as the base for the offering to which this communication relates. Before you invest, you should read the base shelf prospectus and any other documents the Company has filed with the securities commissions in each of the provinces and territories of Canada, except Québec, and the SEC for more complete information about the Company and this offering. You may obtain a copy of the base shelf prospectus filed in the United States from CIBC World Markets Corp., 300 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017 or request a copy by telephone at 212-667-7014. You may obtain a copy of the base shelf prospectus in Canada from CIBC World Markets Inc., fax 416-594-7242 or request a copy by telephone at 416-594-7270.

Statements contained in this release that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. CFOC’s actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, those risks detailed in the Company’s filings with the Canadian securities regulatory authorities and the SEC.

Central Fund of Canada Limited (est. 1961) is an exchange tradeable refined gold and silver bullion holding company. Class A Shares are qualified for inclusion in many North American regulated accounts. Bullion holdings are stored on an unencumbered, allocated, segregated and insured basis in the treasury vaults of a major Canadian bank and are audited semi-annually in the presence of Central Fund’s auditors and bank representatives. Class A Shares are quoted on the AMEX, symbol CEF and the TSX, symbol CEF.A (Cdn.\$) and CEF.U (U.S.\$).

For further information, please contact J.C. Stefan Spicer, President and CEO at 905-648-7878
Website: www.centralfund.com . **Email:** info@centralfund.com.