

Peel Bios Bk Mar. 4 87 M10

Francis, Diane

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## Business's business

The Hedda Hopper of Canada's business clique has made tracks to the Toronto Sun.

Diane Francis, a Mississauga resident and ex-Mississauga News reporter, has left Toronto Star fame and fortune to write her chatty, gossipy best for the Sun — a deal rumored to be worth \$100,000 that includes a research assistant.

Under the Maclean's corporate umbrella, Francis — who probably has the longest, most extensive grapevine into the boardrooms and bedrooms of Canada's business elite — will be tapping the keyboards for *The Financial Post*, Maclean's magazine and the Toronto tabloid Sun.

The self-described "one-woman royal commission" investigating Canadian corporate concentration has penned a current bestseller, "Controlling Interest: Who Owns Canada", has starred with *The Star* for five years, and spilled the beans on many a boss in her TV and radio appearances, which include a weekly business report on CBC's Morningside with Peter Gzowski.

Francis, 40, lives in Mississauga with her husband Frank, a self-employed graphics designer, and their two teenaged children.

Never shy, and always opinionated, Francis' gossip always packs a punch.

And this time it looks like Torstar has taken it on the chin.

Or at least until someone makes a counter-offer for Hedda's poison pen.