



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2006

Recipients of 2006 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE Announced

Saskatoon – The Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association (SEDA) was pleased to present its **2006 Awards of Excellence** on February 22, 2006 in Saskatoon. Attended by over 170 community leaders, government officials and economic development practitioners from across the province, the Awards Banquet and Presentations provided recognition of the outstanding initiatives and contributions to community economic development in Saskatchewan.

The **OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE** is presented to an agency that has successfully advanced their community, regional, or provincial economy through an economic development initiative. The **2006 OUTSTANDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE** was presented to the innovative and broad reaching collaborative process implemented in southwest Saskatchewan - **The Action Southwest Business Network Coalition**. This project has cemented a vision for the southwest corner of Saskatchewan – with its focus on thinking regionally as the key to building a strong and united economy. The necessity of business networks and industry cluster development are key elements to this strategic plan which was developed by over 120 industry and community leaders and has no less than 15 action plans currently underway.

The **2006 RON MUNRO CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFESSION** was presented to Assiniboia resident **Sonja Dahlman**. This award recognizes outstanding contributions by a SEDA member to the profession of economic development as well as to the provincial association. Sonja has been a tireless advocate for the discipline of economic development, in addition to diligently

working to enhance the future of her own community and region. Sonja has been a pivotal member of the SEDA Board of Directors for over six years and is one of its primary educational facilitators, delivering SEDA training modules and workshops to over 600 community leaders and economic development practitioners each year. Through participation on countless committees and provincial initiatives, Sonja's leadership and contribution is a credit to the dedication of the profession.

The ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR recognizes the excellence in initiative shown at a volunteer capacity working at the local, regional or provincial level in economic development. The **2006 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD** recognizes the efforts of **Wally Lorenz, Don Young and Greg Lightfoot** – and their commitment of energy, leadership and vision to the future of their region. A team approach was apparent during both 2004 and 2005 as these three individuals in the Battlefords region laid a foundation for a new economic development framework - bringing the Strategic Alliance between the Battlefords, Big Gully and Border Regional Economic Development Authorities into fruition.

-30-

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Enclosure: SEDA Background



SEDA Backgrounder

The Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association (SEDA) has operated successfully for the past twenty three years as the provincial association for those who actively support and/or are engaged in community economic development throughout Saskatchewan. As an independent, non-governmental organization, SEDA has contributed to the province of Saskatchewan through development and delivery of a number of successful, well-established programs and services. Areas of service which have grown steadily in relevance and priority for SEDA include: advisory services and advancement of intersectoral issues; linkages and networks development; project management and resource development and development of new education and professional development programs.

The mission of SEDA is to increase the capacity of communities to grow and direct their economic future. It currently has a broad and varied membership base covering Regional Economic Development Authorities, Rural Development Corporations, Community Futures Development Corporations, municipalities, tourism groups, financial institutions and organizations, Crown Corporations, businesses and business organizations, as well as government and other agencies involved in economic development in Saskatchewan.

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