

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Regional Development Authorities Achieve International First in Community Economic Development**

Halifax, NS – October 11, 2005 – It was just over a year in the making, but it has already positioned Nova Scotia on the leading edge of international best practices in community economic development.

All 13 of Nova Scotia's Regional Development Authorities have achieved ISO 9001:2000 registration, making them the first complete organization in the world to achieve this benchmark of quality management.

ISO registration, which measures organizational competence against a number of indicators including strategic planning, employee competence, process management and continuous improvement, has been proven to enhance return on investment, and organizational productivity.

One of the most widely recognized standards of quality in business, the ISO standard is a part of the Regional Development Authorities' overall strategy to enhance Nova Scotia's competitiveness in an increasingly global marketplace.

"When companies are interested in doing business in rural Nova Scotia, they will have confidence in dealing with community economic development organizations that meet international standards of quality management," said Ernest Fage, Economic Development Minister. The Nova Scotia Office of Economic Development, along with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Enterprise Cape Breton Corporation and municipal governments across Nova Scotia, partner to fund the 13 development authorities.

Rhonda Kelly, Chair of the Nova Scotia Association of Regional Development Authorities says the rigorous registration process was demanding for all 13 RDAs, but well worth the investment of time and energy.

"Our RDA network has established a benchmark of quality management, accountability and transparency for community development the world over," she says.

The Nova Scotia Association of Regional Development Authorities - or NSARDA - is the common voice for the RDAs, promoting all 13 RDAs collectively. Since 1999, the NSARDA has helped the Nova Scotia RDAs in improving the economy of communities across Nova Scotia.

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