

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NSARDA welcomes new Acting Executive Director

Halifax, NS – August 23, 2007 – The Nova Scotia Regional Development Authority (NSARDA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Tracey Thomas as Acting Executive Director, effective September 1, 2007.

NSARDA's current Executive Director, Holly Boston, is taking a one-year leave of absence to pursue professional growth opportunities abroad.

In recent years, NSARDA has achieved international leadership in community economic development, becoming one of the first groups of its kind to achieve ISO 9001: 2000 registration worldwide.

Jo Ann Fewer, Chair of NSARDA, says the Association is in a strong position structurally and strategically, to welcome new leadership.

"While we will miss Holly Boston's leadership, I am confident that Tracey has the skill sets to keep the projects and momentum of NSARDA going for the next year. I look forward to working with her!" says Fewer.

Meanwhile, for Holly Boston, the new appointment represents an exciting finale to a fiscal year marked with many highlights, including the addition of two new members – the Annapolis Digby Economic Development Association and Greater Halifax Partnership.

"As I embark on a year long opportunity for professional growth, I am confident that NSARDA is being left with a very competent person to assist the NSARDA board in keeping the momentum we have collectively created during my time as Executive Director," says Boston. Tracey Thomas brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to our Association and I'm sure not a beat will be missed as we transition the leadership and keep growing. I will miss my day to day contact with the RDAs and partners, but it's only for a year!"

Thomas is no stranger to the world of community and business development. In her close to 10 years with the Black Business Initiative, Thomas worked one-on-one with entrepreneurs in communities throughout the province, helping them to start, expand and transition their businesses. No stranger to issues surrounding workforce and professional development – both key strategic initiatives to NSARDA, Thomas is an experienced facilitator and adult teacher, and has also served as a training manager at the Nova Scotia Community College.

"I'm excited about accepting the position and eager to get started. I feel this is a great opportunity to work with such a progressive Association," says Thomas. "It has engaged in a lot of strategic planning to keep the Association moving forward so that it benefits its members. Over the next year I will be focused on carrying out the RDA provincial strategic initiatives as outlined in the current fiscal year business plan and 2006-2010 NSARDA strategic plan."

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.

NSARDA is positioned at the forefront of regional, economic and community development issues. In 2006-07, the Association developed an innovative “get started” toolkit for new immigrants, worked with its many partners to deliver the internationally recognized Business Retention & Expansion program to over 500 entrepreneurs, and conducted in-depth assessments of the Atlantic Gateway Initiative and the provincial labour force.

For more information, please contact:

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