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NEWS RELEASE

Calgary Stampede to honour Alberta's heroes

Calgary – The Calgary Stampede will honour the significant achievements of individuals and organizations that help to build and strengthen communities while preserving western heritage and values at its fifth annual Western Legacy Awards to be held on Oct. 13, 2009. Nominations for the 2009 Western Legacy Awards will be accepted until August 21, 2009.

"I'm impressed by people and organizations who give generously even in difficult times," says Steve Major, chair of the Calgary Stampede Western Legacy Awards committee. "We encourage everyone to nominate the individuals and organizations in their communities that have shown that what you do can make a world of difference."

The Western Legacy Awards are presented in three categories: Sustained Contribution, Innovation and Youth. Winners of the sustained contribution category exhibit extraordinary community support over a number of years while the award for innovation recognizes a person or group that has created a single visionary project that speaks to western values. The youth category is open to young people under 25 years of age, and recognizes youth who have demonstrated their commitment to making a difference.

Nominees will live in Calgary and the surrounding area and are generally bordered by Olds, Strathmore, High River and Cochrane. Last year's recipients included a young man who started an organization dedicated to feeding the hungry, an organization that contributed grain while helping improve farm practices here and abroad, and a lifelong contributor to volunteering, education and the western way of life.

"We're so pleased the awards have recognized people who embody the Calgary Stampede's values of western hospitality, commitment to community, pride of place and integrity," added Major. "And we're excited to recognize another deserving group this year."

Established in 2005 as a provincial centennial project, the Calgary Stampede Western Legacy Awards are entering their fifth year of honouring community members. For nomination and other information about the awards, please visit calgarystampede.com/legacyawards or call 403-261-0101.

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The Calgary Stampede is a volunteer-supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. The Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through its world-renowned 10-day Stampede, year-round facilities, western events and several youth and agriculture programs. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities. For more about the Stampede, visit www.calgarystampede.com.

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Limited

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