



News Release

Embargoed for Release until December 13, 2006

Sustainability spells success for elite Canadian companies

Best Managed program salutes companies across Canada with the country's highest honour for ongoing business performance

TORONTO, December 13, 2006— They come in all shapes and sizes, from all regions across the country, representing a wide variety of industries. But the best of the best in Canadian business have one thing in common –sustained, superior performance over time.

Consistently maintaining success and achievement at the highest level has earned these leading companies inclusion in a distinguished group – the Best Managed program's Platinum Club or Requalified membership.

Platinum Club members form an elite group of Canadian-owned and managed companies that consistently excel in every aspect of business. To become a Platinum Club member, companies must maintain their designation as one of Canada's Best Managed Companies for a minimum of six consecutive years, subject to annual operational and financial review.

In addition to the 44 new Platinum Club members, 84 leading Canadian companies requalified in 2006 for the Best Managed designation by successfully meeting stringent operational and financial review requirements.

"Achieving the highest level of business performance over the long-term is only possible when organizations embrace a culture of aligning every activity and resource with building value for their stakeholders," said Deloitte Partner with the Private Company Services Group, and National Leader of the Best Managed program, John Hughes. "Membership in these groups symbolizes the ultimate goal for any business – sustained high performance. All companies strive for business success; what distinguishes Platinum Club and Requalified members is their ability to sustain that success."

Hughes points to the five most prominent common attributes these exceptional companies share which contribute to their success, including their ability to:

1. **Predict and adapt to** the constantly changing domestic and global business environment
2. **Innovate and extend their value proposition** to customers and talent
3. **Balance risks and opportunities** with a strong balance sheet, enabling sustainability through unforeseen challenges
4. **Develop long-term executable strategies** that leverage core skills
5. **Cultivate and preserve a sense of purpose**, belonging and loyalty throughout the organization

The Best Managed program asked the 2006 Platinum Club and Requalified companies about their revenue growth plans. The vast majority named more than one strategy. Of those that specified, the significant majority (59%) plan to pursue domestic growth, while just over a third (36%) plan to drive revenue growth through international operations or expansion. Acquisitions and alliances are the hottest future growth strategies cited by Platinum Club winners (51% and 56%, respectively). Technology is also at the centre of future growth plans (for 51%), followed by new product lines or new products (43% and 41% respectively). By far the most profound growth challenge these companies face is 'finding qualified employees' cited by 63% as a concern.

"The success of these companies – the best of the best – is an inspiration to all Canadian businesses," said James McSherry, Executive Vice President and Managing Director, CIBC Commercial Banking. "Sustaining the highest level of business performance over the long-term is fraught with challenges. Only the fittest succeed in making the giant leap from small entrepreneurial operations to multi-million dollar enterprises, avoiding the many pitfalls along the way."

2006 Platinum Club and Requalified members by Province

Province	Company	City	Industry
British Columbia	Platinum Club members		
	Coast Spas Manufacturing Inc.	Langley	Manufacturing
	Deeley Harley-Davidson Canada	Richmond	Automotive
	Boston Pizza International Inc.	Richmond	Food Services
	Odlum Brown Limited	Vancouver	Financial Services
	Custom House	Victoria	Financial Services
	Requalified members		
	Golder Associates Ltd.	Burnaby	Engineering Consulting
	NORPAC Controls Ltd.	Burnaby	Engineering Consulting
	CANTEST Ltd.	Burnaby	Life Sciences
	The Oppenheimer Group	Coquitlam	Food Services
	Nuheat Industries Ltd.	Delta	Manufacturing
	Hayes Forest Services Limited	Duncan	Forestry
	A&W Food Services of Canada Inc.	North Vancouver	Food Services
	Great Little Box Company Ltd.	Richmond	Manufacturing
	Cummins Western Canada	Surrey	Technology
	Alberta	Platinum Club members	
Graham Group Ltd.		Calgary	Construction
First Calgary Savings & Credit Union Ltd.		Calgary	Financial Services
SMART Technologies Inc.		Calgary	Technology
Palliser Lumber Sales Ltd		Crossfield	Manufacturing
PCL Construction Group of Companies		Edmonton	Construction
Design Group Staffing Inc.		Edmonton	Human Resources
Fountain Tire	Edmonton	Retail	

Requalified members			
	AdFarm Partnership	Calgary	Business Services
	CANA Group of Companies	Calgary	Construction
	Jayman MasterBUILT Inc.	Calgary	Construction
	Trico Homes Inc.	Calgary	Construction
	Apex Distribution Inc.	Calgary	Energy and Resources
	Big Country Energy Services LP	Calgary	Energy and Resources
	Spartan Controls Ltd.	Calgary	Energy and Resources
	Hopewell Development Corporation	Calgary	Real Estate
	Commercial Solutions Inc.	Edmonton	Industrial Distribution
	CCI Thermal Technologies Inc.	Edmonton	Manufacturing
	Waiward Steel Fabricators Ltd.	Edmonton	Manufacturing
	IFS Voyages Inc.	Edmonton	Travel & Tourism
	Blue Falls Manufacturing Limited	Thorsby	Manufacturing
Saskatchewan	Platinum Club members		
	Mega Group Incorporated	Saskatoon	Business Services
	Yanke Group of Companies	Saskatoon	Transportation
Requalified members			
	Brandt Group of Companies	Regina	Manufacturing
	Great Western Brewing Company Limited	Saskatoon	Manufacturing
	Philom Bios Inc.	Saskatoon	Manufacturing
Manitoba	Platinum Club members		
	National Leasing Group Inc.	Winnipeg	Financial Services
	Canad Inns	Winnipeg	Hospitality
	Monarch Industries Limited	Winnipeg	Manufacturing
	WGI Westman Group Inc.	Winnipeg	Manufacturing
	The Dufresne Group	Winnipeg	Retail
	Bison Transport Inc	Winnipeg	Transportation
Requalified members			
	Golden West Broadcasting Ltd./Elmer Hildebrand Com	Altona	Media
	Hytek Ltd.	La Broquerie	Agribusiness
	The Murray Automotive Group	Winnipeg	Automotive
	Johnston Group Inc.	Winnipeg	Business Services
	B.A. Robinson Co. Ltd.	Winnipeg	Consumer Business
	Paterson GlobalFoods Inc.	Winnipeg	Food Services
Ontario	Platinum Club members		
	MSM Transportation Inc.	Bolton	Transportation
	Pioneer Petroleums	Burlington	Retail
	Brock Solutions Inc.	Kitchener	Engineering Consulting
	Flynn Canada Ltd.	Mississauga	Construction
	Longo Brothers Fruit Markets Inc.	Mississauga	Food Services
	Prime Restaurants of Canada Inc.	Mississauga	Food Services
	Quik X Transportation Inc.	Mississauga	Transportation
	Wheels Group	Mississauga	Transportation
	Allied Global Holdings Inc.	Newmarket	Financial Services
	Modern Niagara Group Inc.	Ottawa	Construction
	Eagle Professional Resources Inc.	Ottawa	Human Resources
	Medical Pharmacies Group Inc.	Pickering	Life Sciences
	Kriska Holdings Ltd.	Prescott	Transportation
	Consumer Impact Marketing Ltd.	Toronto	Business Services
	Spin Master Limited	Toronto	Manufacturing
	Magnotta Winery Corporation	Vaughan	Manufacturing / Retail

Northern Digital Inc.	Waterloo	Manufacturing
Requalified members		
Barrie Metals Group of Companies	Barrie	Recycling
Challenger Motor Freight Inc.	Cambridge	Transportation
MacKinnon Transport Inc.	Guelph	Transportation
Conestoga Cold Storage	Kitchener	Food Services
Adastra Corporation	Markham	Technology
EllisDon Corporation	Mississauga	Construction
DBG Canada Limited	Mississauga	Manufacturing
Lakeside Process Controls Ltd.	Mississauga	Manufacturing
Redknee Inc.	Mississauga	Telecommunications
Tandet Management Inc.	Oakville	Automotive
Decima Research Inc.	Ottawa	Market and Opinion Research
IT/NET Group Inc.	Ottawa	Technology
Semiconductor Insights Inc.	Ottawa	Technology
N. Harris Computer Corporation	Ottawa	Technology
Marsan Foods Limited	Scarborough	Food Services
NuComm International	St. Catharines	Telecommunications
Hurley Corporation	Toronto	Business Services
Murray Demolition LP	Toronto	Demolition
Ontor Limited	Toronto	Industrial Distribution
CPI Plastics Group Limited	Toronto	Manufacturing
Metro Label Company Limited	Toronto	Manufacturing
Asset Inc.	Toronto	Technology
Globalive Communications Corp.	Toronto	Technology
G.A.P Adventures	Toronto	Travel & Tourism
Conestoga-Rovers & Associates Limited	Waterloo	Engineering Consulting
Tregaskiss Ltd.	Windsor	Manufacturing
Summer Fresh Salads Incorporated	Woodbridge	Food Services
Cousins-Currie Limited	Woodbridge	Manufacturing
Consolidated Fastfrate, Inc.	Woodbridge	Transportation
Quebec		
Platinum Club members		
D.L.G.L. Ltd.	Blainville	Technology
Induspac Packaging Group Inc.	Lachine	Manufacturing
Location d'outils Simplex s.e.c.	Montréal	Consumer Business
Poulies Maska inc.	Sainte-Claire	Manufacturing
Aliments Carrière Inc.	St-Denis sur Richeli	Food Services
Requalified members		
Breakfast People of America	Boisbriand	Food Services
Groupe Robert Inc	Boucherville	Transportation
SkiBromont.com	Bromont	Tourism
Plats du Chef, Inc.	Dollard-Des-Ormeaux	Food Services
Groupe Distinction inc.	Lachine	Business Services
Groupe Montoni (1995) Division Construction Inc.	Laval	Construction
CIMA+	Laval	Engineering Consulting
Panneaux Maski Inc.	Louiseville	Manufacturing
Teknika HBA	Montréal	Business Services
Groupe Germain inc.	Québec	Travel & Tourism
Pomerleau Inc.	Saint-Georges	Construction
Le Groupe Beaucage	Sherbrooke	Automotive

	Groupe Biscuits Leclerc inc	St-Augustin-de-Desma	Food Services
	Les industries Mailhot inc.	Terrebonne	Manufacturing
	Atrahan Transformation	Yamachiche	Manufacturing
New Brunswick	Requalified members		
	Cooke Aquaculture Inc.	Blacks Harbour	Manufacturing
	ADI Group Inc.	Fredericton	Business Services
	Day & Ross	Hartland	Transportation
Nova Scotia	Platinum Club members		
	Secunda International Ltd	Dartmouth	Energy & Resources
	Maritime Travel Inc.	Halifax	Travel & Tourism
	Requalified members		
	Office Interiors	Dartmouth	Business Services
	Acadian Seaplants Limited	Dartmouth	Life Sciences
	O'Regan's	Halifax	Automotive
	Wilson Fuel Company Limited	Halifax	Energy and Resources
	The Shaw Group Limited	Halifax	Manufacturing
	Kimberly-Lloyd Developments Group	Halifax	Real Estate

The 50 new 2006 Best Managed winners will be announced on February 7, 2007. A one-day Symposium and Gala event for Best Managed Companies follows on February 12, 2007 in Toronto. This Symposium will provide an opportunity for executives to exchange ideas and gain new management and leadership insights from their peers and keynote speakers. At a black-tie Gala that evening, Best Managed Companies will celebrate their success with their executive management teams and fellow honourees.

About Canada's Best Managed Companies

Established in 1993, Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies (Best Managed) is one of the country's leading business awards program, recognizing excellence in Canadian-owned and managed companies with revenues over \$10 million. Every year, hundreds of entrepreneurial companies compete for this designation in a rigorous and independent process that evaluates the caliber of their management abilities and practices. The awards are granted on three levels: 1) **Best Managed winner** (one of the 50 new winners selected each year), 2) **Requalified member** (repeat winners retain the Best Managed designation for two additional years, subject to annual operational and financial review), 3) **Platinum Club member** (winners that maintain Best Managed status for a minimum of six consecutive years.) Program sponsors are Deloitte, CIBC Commercial Banking, *National Post*, and Queen's School of Business. For further information, visit www.canadas50best.com.

-30-

Contact: Brent Carey
Deloitte
416-874-3858
bre Carey@deloitte.ca

Melanie Ng
Cohn & Wolfe
416-924-5700 ext. 4029
melanie_ng@ca.cohnwolfe.com