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Trails Association Continues Provincial Trail Development

Strategic Planning Process Underway

STA has received funding from both the Recreation Investment Partnership Program and the Community Initiatives Fund to embark upon a strategic planning process, including a strategic planning conference in September. The planning process and conference will engage multi-stakeholders in a dialogue that leads to a strategy for trails in the province, including the Trans Canada Trail. The strategy will coordinate STA operations with government ministries and agencies, as well as establish trail construction and maintenance guidelines.

A strategic planning committee has been established to oversee the process, comprised of co-chairs Ed Spratt and Greg Swanson, as well as Curt Schroeder, Jo-Ann Carignan-Vallee, John Firnesz, and Pat Rediger. The committee has contracted Val Sluth of Val Sluth and Associates as the facilitator for the planning process. Ms. Sluth is currently in the early stages of contacting individuals for participation in focus groups and interviews.

To allow the association to develop a more comprehensive strategy for all trail stakeholders, the STA has moved the date of its strategic planning conference from June 13-14 at the Delta Hotel to September 19-20 at the Regina Inn.

The conference will feature a variety of educational opportunities covering topics such as promotions, trail building, the Trans Canada Trail, and rails to trails. Once conference details have been finalized, all STA members will receive information and a registration form.

A draft strategy document will be prepared in advance of the conference and distributed to stakeholders, who will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the strategy draft at the conference.

STA Grant Supports 10 Local Groups

STA recently distributed a total of \$35,000 to 10 trail, community, and recreation groups in the province through the STA Trail Building Grant program. The recipient organizations will use the funds to construct new trails, add to existing trails, develop the Trans Canada Trail, and build water crossings, among other important trail enhancement initiatives.

Grants of \$3,500 each have been awarded to the Archerwill Drift Riders, Meewasin Valley Authority, Ness Creek Cultural & Recreational Society Inc., Outlook & District Recreation Board, Parkland TCT Association, Inc., R.M. of Rocanville #151, Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, Tansi TCT Association, Inc., Three Rivers Trail Association, and Watrous Rotary Club.

The STA Trail Building Grant program provides up to 60 per cent, to a maximum of \$3,500, of the total costs required to either build new trails or enhance existing trails in the province. Available to all STA members, the grants are offered twice a year up to and including 2009 with the purpose of ensuring the proper maintenance and development of the Trans Canada Trail and other trails in the province. Funding for the program originates with the Province of Saskatchewan through the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport.