



## **AWARD WINNING WORKPLACE LITERACY PROGRAMS IMPROVE WORKPLACE SAFETY**

Ottawa, December 1, 2006 – **Robinson Paperboard Packaging** in Mississauga, Ontario, Calgary’s **Keyera Energy** and **Larsen Packers Limited** of Berwick, Nova Scotia are the winners of The Conference Board of Canada’s 2006 Awards for Excellence in Workplace Literacy.

The awards, supported by the National Office of Literacy and Learning of Human Resources and Social Development Canada, recognize outstanding programs by employers that improve the literacy skills of their workforce. This year’s winners are:

*Small Business:* In 2005, Robinson Paperboard Packaging started providing English as a Second Language training, focusing on health and safety procedures, to its culturally diverse workforce.

*Medium-sized Business:* Keyera Energy developed the Capability Management and Development System (CMDS) to provide a comprehensive, competency based approach to workplace skills assessments and training. CMDS ensures that employees understand what are their site-specific job requirements and also provides a credible validation of their achieved skills. Keyera Energy has partnered with Lakeland College and over twenty other companies to provide employees with the opportunity to acquire the required training that meets the critical needs of the current workforce and receive certification from an accredited Post Secondary Institution.

*Large Business:* In 2003, Larsen Packers Limited partnered with the Skills Development Branch of Nova Scotia’s Department of Education and the Atlantic Meat Packer’s Union to develop a workplace education program in which employees have the opportunity to earn their Grade 12 equivalency.

“This year’s winners recognize the importance of literacy skills in sustaining a safe and healthy work environment as part of improving business performance and productivity,” said Michael Bloom, Vice-President, Organizational Effectiveness and Learning at the Conference Board.

The awards will be presented at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, at the 2006 International Workplace Education and Learning Conference in Toronto. More information is available at <http://www.conferenceboard.ca/education/awards/literacy/default.htm>.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Brent Dowdall, Media Relations, Tel.: (613) 526-3090 ext. 448

E-mail: [corpcomm@conferenceboard.ca](mailto:corpcomm@conferenceboard.ca)