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For Immediate Release

STUDENTS ARE GOING “GREEN” FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Over 85 per cent of Canadian households with school-age children will consider ecologically friendly options while back-to-school shopping

Toronto, ON – July 23, 2008 – In a recent STAPLES® Business Depot™ and Angus Reid survey, STAPLES discovered that Canadian families are 75% more interested in “green” options today than they were five years ago. While back-to-school shopping for their school-age children, 85 per cent of parents will consider buying environmentally friendly products.

STAPLES is committed to offering “green” products for customers, with more than 2,000 eco-friendly items available for customers, STAPLES makes it easy to stay environmentally friendly when buying school supplies.

“It amazes me how environmentally conscious today’s young generation is. They really care, and they want to do their part in helping sustain the environment,” said Steve Matyas, president of STAPLES Business Depot. “I think retailers have an obligation to provide a choice.”

The survey also indicated that only 3 per cent of parents would not consider buying eco-friendly back-to-school products for their kids.

Because teenagers and parents will be expecting environmentally friendly options when shopping for their Back-to-School items, STAPLES Business Depot is proud to offer a wide variety of eco-friendly products at all 300 locations across Canada, and online.

“Raising awareness around our eco-friendly products is a key initiative for us this year. I want our back-to-school shoppers—parents, students and teachers—to know that we are working hard to provide options and choices that make a difference,” said Matyas.

Just a few samples of green products available:

- **HILROY** Enviro-Plus brand refill paper for binders and Hilroy exercise books are manufactured in Canada using 50 percent recycled paper and 30 percent post-consumer waste
- **STAPLES** brand 100 percent recycled copy paper is made from 100 percent post-consumer recycled content

- **SARASA ZEBRA ECO** retractable gel pens contain 81 percent post-consumer content
- **DOMTAR** EarthChoice offers a selection of environmentally friendly paper products for home, school and office, certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
- **STAPLES** brand 5-tab and 8-tab write-on dividers are partially made from post-consumer content

About STAPLES Business Depot

Founded in Toronto in 1991, The Business Depot Ltd. is Canada's largest supplier of office supplies, business machines, office furniture and business services for the small business and home office customer. The company is an everyday low price retailer. The chain operates stores in all provinces across Canada under the banners STAPLES[®] Business Depot[™] and Bureau en Gros^{MC} with over 13,500 employees serving customers through 298 office superstores, catalogue, and e-commerce. STAPLES[®] Business Depot[™]/Bureau en Gros^{MC} is committed to making shopping easy by offering customers three ways to shop: online, by catalogue and in-store. STAPLES Business Depot was recently ranked number one by the 2008 Marketing/Leger Corporate reputation survey.

More information is available at www.staples.ca

About Staples

Staples, the world's largest office products company, is committed to making it easy for customers to buy a wide range of office products, including supplies, technology, furniture, and business services. With \$27 billion in sales, Staples serves businesses of all sizes and consumers in 27 countries throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australia. In July 2008, Staples acquired Corporate Express, one of the world's leading suppliers of office products to businesses and institutions. Staples invented the office superstore concept in 1986, and is headquartered outside Boston.

More information about Staples (Nasdaq: SPLS) is available at
www.staples.com.

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