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For Immediate Release

STAPLES Business Depot Breaks Ground in Richmond Hill

STAPLES Business Depot's Canadian Home Office to Relocate Fall 2005

TORONTO, ON - July 26, 2004 – Today at 2 p.m. STAPLES Business Depot, Canada's leader in Small Business and Home Office supplies, breaks ground for the construction of their new Canadian home office building in Richmond Hill, Ontario.

Steve Matyas, President of STAPLES Business Depot, Town of Richmond Hill Mayor William F. Bell and architect firm ZAS along with construction management team URBACON were on hand to celebrate the start of construction of the new office building.

"We are extremely excited about our new home office. Our associates can't wait to move in," said Steve Matyas, President of STAPLES Business Depot/BUREAU EN GROS. "The design ZAS Architect and Interior design came up with incorporated feedback from our associates; it is sure to be a healthy, productive work environment for everyone."

Construction of the new 5-story building is scheduled to be complete by early Fall 2005. The building will be situated on Leslie Street North between 16th Avenue and Major Mackenzie Drive on approximately 10 acres of land. The new building will be 125,000 square feet with ample parking and a walking path around the perimeter of the site.

"The Town of Richmond Hill is very excited about STAPLES Business Depot moving their Canadian Home Office to our Town," said Mayor William F. Bell. "We look forward to welcoming the entire team to their new office space next Fall."

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In the last year, the Town of Richmond Hill has developed over 11 office buildings and 1,754 residential communities. The Town is committed to building a safe and clean community by managing growth and providing a welcoming, diverse and environmentally sustainable community that enhances residents' quality of life.

“We are lucky to be a part of the Richmond Hill Community. It truly is a pleasure working with the Town of Richmond Hill and our other partners on this project,” continued Matyas.

The project team consists of the following members:

URBACON Construction Management
ZAS Architect/Interior design
Stephenson Engineering LTD.
Jain and Associates LTD.
Graham Hess and Associates Inc. (Landscape Architect)
EMC group limited (Civil Engineering)
BAIF Development Limited (developer)

The Business Depot Ltd. was founded in Toronto in 1991. It 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™. The company has over 11,500 employees serving customers through more than 220 office superstores, catalogue, and e-commerce. STAPLES® Business Depot™/BUREAU EN GROS™ is committed to making shopping easy by offering customers three ways to shop - on-line, by catalogue and in-store. In addition to the Canadian operation, Staples Inc. has stores operating in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, the Netherlands and Portugal.

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