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For Immediate Release

STAPLES Business Depot Launches National “Recycle for Education” Fundraiser

Campaign aims to raise \$250,000 this year

Toronto, ON - September 15, 2004 - STAPLES Business Depot today, launched a national campaign that makes it easy to raise money for schools by recycling used inkjet and laser toner cartridges.

“STAPLES Business Depot will donate \$1.00 for every eligible cartridge recycled in its stores,” says Steve Matyas, President of STAPLES Business Depot in Canada. “The STAPLES Recycle for Education program is an easy way for educators, parents, students and our customers to help schools and the environment.”

According to recent statistics, one school can use 1,000 inkjet cartridges a year and each student uses a minimum of 6 to 10 cartridges a year.

STAPLES got the program off to a running start today by donating 1,000 used inkjet and toner cartridges collected from STAPLES stores and employees in the Greater Toronto Area.

“Inkjet printers can be found in nearly every home in Canada that has a computer,” states Mr. Matyas. “Millions of cartridges are dumped in the garbage and then thrown in landfill sites where it can take centuries before the plastic containers decompose, so recycling them will make a huge impact.”

Specially marked recycling bins will be placed in all 231 STAPLES stores across the country where cartridges can be dropped off.

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The money raised by the year-long campaign, will be channeled to public schools that register online for the program. To be eligible to receive funds raised, schools are asked to register with the program at www.recycleford.ca before June 1, 2005. The funds raised will be distributed to participating schools in September 2005. STAPLES Business Depot expects to raise \$250,000 for participating schools this year.

All elementary and secondary schools in Canada are eligible whether or not there is a STAPLES Business Depot in their community.

STAPLES Business Depot is a large supporter of public education and the environment.

About STAPLES Business Depot™

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 230 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 - online, 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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