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NEWS RELEASE

AIDS Calgary to Honour Community Activism *Calls for nominations for the Roger LeBlanc Spirit Award*

CALGARY – AIDS Calgary Awareness Association announced today they are calling for nominations for the 2006 Roger LeBlanc Spirit Award. Each year, the award recognizes a member of the Calgary community for their efforts in HIV/AIDS advocacy.

The Roger LeBlanc Spirit Award distinguishes individuals (living or posthumous), organizations or groups, institutions, or businesses that impact the lives of people in our community, through HIV/AIDS awareness, education, prevention and/or support of persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Nominations can include self, peers, colleagues, patients, families/significant others or community members.

“It is extremely important to recognize community activism and the dedicated HIV/AIDS advocates,” said Susan Cress, Executive Director of AIDS Calgary. “By honouring the memory of a great community member, we reward a deserving individual or organization that stands out in the Calgary community as a leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS.”

Named in honour of Roger LeBlanc, a long-term employee of SMED International (now Haworth), the award intends to keep Roger’s memory alive and emphasizes the importance of HIV/AIDS awareness. Roger, who was diagnosed with HIV in the early 1990s and consequently passed away July 23, 1995, championed HIV/AIDS education and prevention in the Calgary community.

Nomination Deadline:

Completed nomination forms including signature and two references must be received by **September 1, 2006**. For more information, or to pick up a nomination form, contact AIDS Calgary at (403) 508-2500 or online at www.aidscalgary.org.

The recipient of the 2006 Roger LeBlanc Spirit Award will be recognized at the Walk for Life Calgary on September 24, 2006.

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AIDS Calgary is a local not-for-profit AIDS service organization that offers support services to individuals who are at-risk for, living with or affected by HIV/AIDS and provides prevention and education throughout the Calgary region. For more information, please contact AIDS Calgary at (403) 508-2500 or visit www.aidscalgary.org.

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