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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 20th is Canada Day in Pittsburgh *Mayoral Proclamation and a Historic Major League Baseball Game Celebrate the Region's Relationship with a Northern Neighbor*

(PITTSBURGH – June 19, 2008) To highlight the many important business and cultural links between Canada and southwestern Pennsylvania, Friday, June 20, 2008 will be proclaimed Canada Day in Pittsburgh by City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl.

On Friday evening—Canada Night at PNC Park—the Toronto Blue Jays will play the Pittsburgh Pirates for the first time in Major League Baseball history. The event will be marked by the singing of the U.S and Canadian national anthems and a ceremonial presentation of colors featuring the North East Air Defense Sector's bi-national color guard. Headquartered in Rome, N.Y., the North East Air Defense Sector is the regional headquarters for the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Uniquely, NORAD has single-chain command reporting to the governments of both Canada and the United States, a command structure that underscores the strong relationship and shared values between the two countries.

Likewise, Canada and the Pittsburgh region, which has as its urban core the City of Pittsburgh, enjoy a well-regarded political and business relationship. Canada is southwestern Pennsylvania's largest export market, according to Allegheny Conference on Community Development Senior Vice President of Global Marketing Roger Cranville, who is also the Honorary Consul for Canada in western Pennsylvania. According to Cranville, 2006 data from the Bureau of the Census, U.S. Department of Commerce point to \$2.1 billion worth of trade exports sold to Canada, a figure that represents 26 percent of southwestern Pennsylvania's worldwide exports. Additionally, 36 Canadian companies have operations in the Pittsburgh region and employ more than 4,000 individuals. Mutual economic well-being through an integrated, globally competitive North American market is held in common by both regions.

The Pittsburgh region and Canada are engaged in innovation and technology partnerships that are laying foundations for mutual economic prosperity. Skyrocketing demand for petroleum products from the Alberta oil sands region – coupled with rising prices for crude oil – is increasing the need for oilfield equipment, specialized manufacturing capabilities and environmental technology and consulting services, in addition to widespread need for trained workers. The Pittsburgh region is exploring how to best leverage its capabilities and strengths to help meet these needs.

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A delegation of Canadian government, business and economic development officials will visit Pittsburgh in July to meet with representatives of area firms, business development organizations, worker training programs and supply-chain experts to identify matches.

“The Pittsburgh region has a valued neighbor to our north in Canada,” said Allegheny Conference on Community Development Chief Executive Officer Michael Langley. “The potential for Canada with its oil sands, for example, is huge. Canada will find in the Pittsburgh region a partner with the products, people, technology and services to help fully tap that potential. The work of the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance to continually connect the region with Canada is increasing the value of a relationship that is reciprocal and mutually beneficial.”

“Our regions share business, recreational, cultural and historical ties—including the Battle of Fort Duquesne and the founding of the City of Pittsburgh. With those ties in mind, it makes perfect sense to celebrate a Canada Day in Pittsburgh to demonstrate that southwestern Pennsylvania and Canada work—and play—well together,” said City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl.

Canada Night at PNC Park featuring the Toronto Blue Jays versus the Pittsburgh Pirates begins at 7:05 p.m. A Zambelli fireworks display follows the game.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: [Click here for a facts sheet about Canada/Pittsburgh region connections.](#)

[Click here for a Canada Day news release from the Canadian Consulate General.](#)

The Allegheny Conference on Community Development and Affiliates – the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, the Pennsylvania Economy League of Southwestern Pennsylvania and the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance – work in collaboration with public and private sector partners to stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in southwestern Pennsylvania. Learn more at www.alleghenyconference.org.

The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, markets the benefits of conducting business in southwestern Pennsylvania to companies all over the world that are growing, relocating or expanding. Learn more at www.pittsburghregion.org.