M E D I A R E L E A S E

October 29, 2003 **contact: Janet Riopel 780-426-3414**

Top apprentices receive scholarship awards

They're smart, they're motivated, and they're already meeting with great success as trades apprentices. The 50 young men and women from across Alberta who are this year's recipients of the Registered Apprentice Program (RAP) Scholarship Awards are showing they have what it takes to embark on rewarding careers in the trades and technologies.

The awards recognize first-year apprentices who have excellent high school grades, have shown adeptness at learning their trade, and have received strong commendations from their employers. The 50 winners each received $1000 and were selected from just over 100 applicants. There are as many as 10,000 first year apprentices in Alberta.

"Each of these recipients are at the forefront of tremendous opportunity. They've made a smart choice and given themselves excellent options for the future. The trades are where it's at!" said Eric Newell, Syncrude Canada CEO , and Board Chair of CAREERS: The Next Generation.

This year there will be 2 Awards Celebrations, one in Calgary on November 5th, 2003 held at SAIT in Ambrosia/Symposium Rooms from 6:30 – 9:00pm and one in Edmonton on November 6th, 2003 held at NAIT in the Dining Room from 6:30 – 9:00pm.

"These outstanding young men and women have accomplished so much in a short period of time, and their futures promise continued success. I expect we'll hear these names again and again - they will be strong contributors to the economy and to their communities." said Janet Riopel, CAREERS' President & CEO

Many of the award winners entered into trades training through *CAREERS: The Next Generation*. CAREERS is an industry-driven private/public partnership – one of a kind and made in Alberta. It is dedicated to the career development of Alberta's youth in order to provide a continuous supply of skilled and motivated people to meet industry needs today and in future.

Through classroom presentations and workshops, thousands of high school students and their parents from across Alberta are becoming more aware of the value of a career in the trades and technologies. *CAREERS: The Next Generation* works to bridge the gap between school and the workplace by encouraging local employers to take students into their workplace where the students develop key employability skills either through internships or by participating in the RAP program.

For more information, visit the CAREERS website at www.nextgen.org or call 1-888-757-7172.