

September 15, 2009
For Immediate Release

**Calgary to host major development banking meeting
*High profile international delegates to visit in 2011***

(Calgary, Alberta): Calgary has been selected as host city of the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the leading long-term lender to Latin America and the Caribbean. Scheduled for late March 2011, anticipated event attendance is in the realm of 4,000 – which equates to approximately 20,000 hotel room nights for the city.

“This is a huge win for Tourism Calgary,” said George Brookman, Chairman of Tourism Calgary’s Board of Directors. “Securing this high profile event for the city solidifies our organization’s determination and commitment to continuing to bring meeting, convention and incentive travel to this city. Calgary is the perfect destination for business travel. Not only are we experienced with hosting, but once those conference doors close for the evening – there’s a million unique experiences just waiting for our guests to enjoy.”

IDB Annual Meetings are official gatherings of the Bank’s Board of Governors, which includes ministers of finance and foreign affairs and other high-ranking officials from its 48 member countries. As the premier forum on development issues in Latin America and the Caribbean, the meetings also attract representatives from other international agencies and commercial banks. Former host cities include Lima, Peru; Okinawa, Japan and Miami, Florida. Next year’s gathering will take place in Cancun, Mexico, at a resort that the IDB helped finance in the 1970s.

“Canada has long been a staunch supporter of development in Latin America and the Caribbean and a generous contributor to the IDB,” said Germán Quintana, the Secretary of the Bank. “We look forward to holding our annual meeting in Calgary, a city representative of Canadian friendliness and entrepreneurial spirit.”

Considered a major city event, the IDB Annual Meeting has extensive requirements of its host city in terms of facilities, services and accommodations. Tourism Calgary will act as liaison between the IDB and the Calgary Hotel Association and industry partners as event logistics are further developed. In order to meet the needs of this large group, every downtown hotel property in Calgary had to commit 75 per cent of their inventory. Based on anticipated attendance numbers, direct spending of delegates is projected to be in the vicinity of \$5.5 million. (Note this is not economic impact).

- 30 -

About Tourism Calgary

Tourism Calgary is a not-for-profit, membership based organization specializing in the marketing and promotion of Calgary and area as the destination of choice for leisure and business travel. For over 50 years Tourism Calgary has been the only organization dedicated to this purpose, and has grown to include a network of over 500 businesses. Leading business sales and tourism efforts domestically, nationally and internationally, Tourism Calgary works with tour operators, meeting planners and travel media; in addition to attracting sport and other major events to the city.

About the Inter-American Development Bank

Established in 1959 to promote economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the IDB is the leading source of long-term multilateral financing in the region. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the IDB partners with governments, companies and civil society organizations to apply innovative and sustainable solutions to poverty and inequality. Canada joined the IDB in 1972.

For more information, please contact:

Sonya Koson
Communications Specialist
Office: 403-750-2380
sonyak@tourismcalgary.com