

## **Media Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Price Fixing Lawsuit Nets Funds for Local Charity** **Niagara Community Foundation distributing proceeds from class action settlement**

St. Catharines, May 16, 2007 – **Niagara Community Foundation is distributing \$8,861 to a local charity that deals with transportation issues as part of a class action lawsuit involving manufacturers of a durable, high-density rubber known as EPDM (Ethylene Propylene Diene Monomer).**

The settlement stems from price fixing that resulted in Canadian manufacturers of plastic or rubber paying more for EPDM, which is used in automotive weather-stripping and seals; radiator, garden and appliance hose, tubing, and belts; electrical insulation and roofing membrane.

“Often there is no way to track the consumers affected by class action lawsuits,” said Liz Palmieri, executive director at the Niagara Community Foundation. “Community foundations are well positioned to distribute these funds in an equitable manner because we exist in large and small communities across the country and they work with all charities for the benefit of the entire community.”

The Foundation is providing the grant to:

**Opportunities Niagara for its Job Bus program, which connects people living in communities underserved by local transportation to communities in need of employees. This organization has played a key role in bringing the participants to the table – transit authorities, community agencies, local representatives and job seekers. Additionally, with its collaboration with local municipalities and the political support of municipal leaders in Welland, Fort Erie, Niagara Falls, Port Colborne and St. Catharines and the support of the Regional Transportation Steering Committee, Region of Niagara, it has become quite evident that this project is not only finding people appropriate long-term employment, but also paving the way for new transportation initiatives in Niagara.**

Selected community foundations, approved by the court, are distributing a total of \$190,000 as a result of this settlement. Foundations were chosen to ensure broad geographic representation and each foundation’s allocation is based on population. Grants are to be given to charities that meet various transportation needs in their communities.

This is the second time community foundations have been asked to distribute a class action settlement. Two years, Siskinds, an Ontario-based legal firm and leader in class action law, recommended community foundations to disperse more than \$300,000 to charities. The legal action involved manufacturers of monosodium glutamate (MSG) and nucleotides, two popular flavour enhancers.

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“Community foundations have a proven track record in funding community initiatives and we’re happy to use those skills to pass settlements from these lawsuits back to Canadians,” said Monica Patten, President and Chief Executive Officer, Community Foundations of Canada.

The Niagara Community Foundation builds and manages income earning endowment funds to support charitable activities. Since 2000, the Foundation has received over \$5 million in permanently held endowment funds. The foundation has awarded over \$1.6 million in grants from all its funds during this time.

### **Community Foundations of Canada**

Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) is the national membership organization for the 155 community foundations found in cities, towns and rural areas across the country.

Community foundations build and manage permanent endowments to support charities in their area. They use their broad local knowledge to connect donors to the causes and organizations that matter most to them, helping them make a lasting difference in their communities.

With more than \$2.3-billion in assets, the community foundation movement is one of Canada’s largest grantmakers, providing more than \$115-million in grants last year to thousands of charities.

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**NOTE:** Background on the case is available at [www.classaction.ca/content/actions/ethylene.asp](http://www.classaction.ca/content/actions/ethylene.asp). The settlement can be found at [http://www.classaction.ca/pdf/Distribution\\_Protocol\\_EPDM.pdf](http://www.classaction.ca/pdf/Distribution_Protocol_EPDM.pdf).

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