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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Rural Cluster Development Aims to Address Common Challenges

Saskatoon -With the support of Prairies Economic Development Canada (PrairiesCan) and the Province of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Economic Development Alliance (SEDA) is launching a two and a half year project aimed at strengthening core industry sectors in rural areas of the province.

“Industry cluster development is a driver that can lead to renewed economic growth and competitiveness in rural areas” said SEDA CEO, Verona Thibault. “We will work to encourage shared strategies to address common challenges in new ways and engage regional communities and institutions to support place based solutions.

Cluster development encourages firms and institutions to undertake joint actions that could ultimately yield benefits not only to industry players as a whole, but to the communities in which they are embedded. Firms in clusters are more competitive than similar firms located outside clusters. Bottlenecks that often limit the growth of small businesses are removed, triggering socio-economic and often environmental performance improvements.

An investment of \$280,000 from the Government of Canada through PrairiesCan’s Regional Innovation Ecosystems program stream will help SEDA develop action plans with local businesses to support and grow strategic clusters in five rural Saskatchewan regions over a broad range of economic sectors including manufacturing, value-added agriculture, forestry, critical minerals, digital technology and clean energy.

“Our Government supports Saskatchewan’s economy, rural businesses and communities with investments that help businesses connect, innovate, and create new economic opportunities for all Canadians,” said the Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister for PrairiesCan. “Supporting cluster development, and helping to diversify and strengthen crucial economic sectors for Canada’s future is a key role of PrairiesCan and I am pleased that this investment will help businesses in rural areas across Saskatchewan.”

For more information:

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