

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Closing in on Conservation's Golden Opportunity
Syncrude creative sentence money to conserve key wetland



Sherwood Park, Alberta – October 22, 2010 – Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Fish and Game Association, Nature Conservancy of Canada and Edmonton and Area Land Trust will secure Golden Ranches with the \$900,000 in creative sentence money approved, today, by the Alberta Court.

Located 27 kilometres east of Edmonton, the Golden Ranches represents an unprecedented conservation project within the province of Alberta. This 1,500-plus-acre piece of Alberta wetlands is a key stopover point during migration for waterfowl and shorebirds. “The creative sentencing penalty allows Alberta Conservation Association and our conservation partners to conserve and restore wetland habitat in an area where development is a threat to wetlands. My hope is that this case sets a precedent; where there is a significant value attached to environmental violations and that the penalties are used to mitigate impacts by applying them to the natural resource that was damaged,” states Todd Zimmerling, President and CEO, Alberta Conservation Association.

Located on the shores of Cooking Lake and North Cooking Lake, the recreational and educational opportunities presented by Golden Ranches are almost endless. The property essentially links Elk Island National Park and Blackfoot Grazing Reserve to the north with Ministik Bird Sanctuary to the south, thereby creating a conservation corridor of some 377 square kilometres. Miquelon Lakes Provincial Park and the Strathcona Wilderness Centre are also close neighbours to this corridor.

The acquisition of the Golden Ranches began just over two years ago. A conservation consortium of seven organizations – Alberta Conservation Association, Alberta Fish & Game Association, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Nature Conservancy of Canada, Edmonton and Area Land Trust, Beaverhill Initiative and the County of Strathcona – worked together on a plan to conserve the property.

Visit www.ab-conservation.com for information on Golden Ranches.

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