

News Release

For Release: 8 May 2009

STA Suspends 2009 Trucking Driving Competition

REGINA, Sask. – It is with regret that the Saskatchewan Trucking Association (STA) announces the suspension of this year's Provincial Truck Driving Championship slated for June 6.

"We looked at it long and hard with our industry, but the consensus was that many sponsors could not justify contributing to such an event, in light of the serious economic downturn, said Al Rosseker, STA Executive Director.

"Even though Saskatchewan is not fully feeling the economic slump, our members are directly tied to moving freight east and west, north and south. We're a bellwether industry; when the trucks aren't moving, the economy's not moving."

Rosseker noted the announcement this week that the Atlantic Provinces Trucking Association has withdrawn from the National Truck Driving Championship competition set for Abbotsford this September. "It's an expensive proposition holding provincial competitions, then sending a team to the nationals," he said. "Sponsorship dollars are drying up."

Because five provinces have now withdrawn from the National Championships, that event's viability will be jeopardized, he said.

The STA has every intention of staging the provincial competition in 2010, likely with a new focus and format. "We're reviewing how the event comes together and what it stands for in terms of promoting driving safety among our membership," Rosseker said.

"It's unfortunate, but amassing volunteers, sponsors and driver competitors just isn't flying right now in an industry that's experiencing layoffs, wage freezes and rollbacks, thin profit margins and far fewer loads moving," the executive director noted.

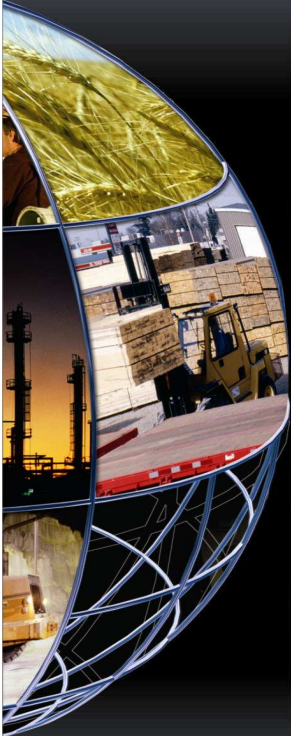
The STA is a not-for-profit trade association that speaks for truck transport in Saskatchewan. The membership-driven organization is affiliated with similar transport association across Canada, as well as the Canadian Trucking Alliance.

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