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## Heartland Association Ranks in Top 10 for Economic Development Groups

**Alberta's Industrial Heartland (September 2, 2014)** – Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association was recognized in the seventh annual Canada's Best to Invest awards by Site Selection. The Association was named one of the Top 10 Canadian Economic Development Groups for a second straight year.

Site Selection is a leading international publication focusing on economic development. Their annual Canadian awards and ranking of economic development groups are based on project data, regional partnerships, innovative programming, and quality of resources.

"Our partnership of municipalities is dedicated to enhancing sustainable economic growth in the Heartland region," explained Wayne Woldanski, Chair of Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association. "It is rewarding to be named among the top economic development groups in the country."

The Association was formed in 1998 by the City of Fort Saskatchewan, Lamont County, Strathcona County, and Sturgeon County. In 2010, the City of Edmonton became the fifth municipal partner. Three Associate Members were recognized in 2011: Towns of Bruderheim, Gibbons, and Redwater.

The Association is focused on collaborating with all levels of government, industry, communities, and other local industry-related organizations. Recent efforts involve investment attraction, transportation network improvements, land use planning, and promoting value added processing of natural resources.

"The Heartland is slated for billions of dollars in new investment over the coming years in projects such as bitumen refining, petrochemical processing, bioenergy, and environmental focused technology," shared Chair Woldanski. "Continued joint efforts with our many stakeholders will help secure our region as a leading and innovative energy producer."

For more information and regular updates on Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association, visit [www.industrialheartland.com](http://www.industrialheartland.com) or follow us on Twitter and Facebook. For more information on Site Selection and Canada's Best to Invest awards, visit [www.siteselection.com](http://www.siteselection.com).

*Alberta's Industrial Heartland Association is a cooperative effort of the Counties of Lamont, Strathcona, Sturgeon, and the Cities of Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan. The Association is dedicated to coordinating, advocating, and promoting long-term sustainable development of the Heartland.*

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