



INVESTMENT INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DU COMMERCE DES VALEURS MOBILIÈRES

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

So far, so good for the first half

November 16, 2007 (Toronto, Canada) – Total equity issuance in Canada remained robust in the second quarter, with 878 issues totaling \$16 billion, down 2 per cent from the record first quarter but up 34 per cent year over year. The Investment Industry Association of Canada (IIAC) issued today its quarterly [*Review of Equity New Issues & Trading*](#), which credited the strong activity in common share financings and trading to the energy and materials sectors, accounting for 69 per cent of all issuance.

There was immense strength in the second quarter amid increased turbulence in global markets. On the trading front, the Canadian markets hit an all-time high with 38 billion shares changing hands. As well, market indices topped the charts. Also, the hustle and bustle in mergers and acquisitions activity continued with Canadian firms acquiring 265 foreign companies valued at \$60 billion in the first half – the highest ever. But the second quarter also witnessed bids to take over BCE and Alcan accompanied by calls for protection of Canadian companies.

“The takeovers of long-time Canadian success stories have led to a healthy discussion of Canada’s generally open stance on investment,” said Ian Russell, President and CEO of the Investment Industry Association of Canada. “While Canada has held its own on the global stage, we need a more productive investment policy to continue to compete and prosper in the years ahead.” The Association supports the federal Industry and Finance Ministers’ creation of a competition policy review panel mandated to examine inward and outward investment and enhance productivity and competitiveness.

“Competition policy on investment in Canada is only one part of the story,” continued Russell. “Unless we act to create a more competitive environment for our own home-grown companies, we may be left behind as stronger firms in more business-friendly countries prevail.” Russell concluded, restating the IIAC commitment to continuing to work on ensuring a vibrant business climate for Canada.

.../

Visit www.iiac.ca for the Association's commentary and statistics in its quarterly publication *[Review of Equity New Issues and Trading](#)*.

The Investment Industry Association of Canada, formerly the industry association arm of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada (IDA), advances the position of the Canadian investment industry on regulatory and public policy issues. As the professional association for the industry, the Investment Industry Association has a mandate to promote efficient, fair and competitive capital markets for Canada while helping its member firms across the country succeed in the industry.

For more information:

Katie O'Dell
Public Affairs Specialist
Tel. (416) 687-5478
kodell@iiac.ca