

City honoured for home-business attitude

Swift Current was named one of Canada's most home-based business friendly communities at the fifth annual Home-Based Business Friendly Community Awards in Toronto this week.

The city is among three communities winning top honours at the awards, sponsored by RBC Financial Group, Canada Post, VISA Canada, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Home Business Report magazine.

"We look for communities that include home-based business in their overall economic strategic planning with a goal to stimulate the growth of home-based businesses," said Barbara Mowat, publisher of *Home Business Report*, in a press release Monday.

With more small businesses per capita than any other city in Canada, Swift Current is an ideal place to establish a small or medium-sized venture, said Marty Salberg, director of business development for Swift Current.

"We are building our business base through the co-ordinated efforts of all three levels of government, as well as the support of the chamber of commerce and other business networks."

Swift Current, the major service centre for the southwest, is the first Saskatchewan community to win a Home-Based Business Friendly Community Award.

Since the relaxation of city regulations on establishment of home-based businesses, 34 per cent of the licensed businesses in the city of 16,000 are home-based.

In 2002, Action Swift Current was formed to create an environment that encourages business and community development.

Other 2003 winners are New Westminster, B.C., and St. John's, Nfld.

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