



NEWS RELEASE
For immediate release

RONA strengthens its presence in BC by acquiring Curtis Lumber Limited

Burnaby, British Columbia, April 25, 2006 – RONA Inc. (“RONA” or the “Company”) (TSX: RON), the leading Canadian distributor and retailer of hardware, home improvement and gardening products, continues the consolidation of the home improvement market by acquiring 100% of the operating assets of British Columbia-based Curtis Lumber Limited (“Curtis Lumber”). Curtis Lumber is a leading supplier of building materials, home improvement and hardware products in British Columbia.

The transaction, financed by RONA’s existing credit facilities, is subject to the usual conditions and regulatory approvals. The deal is expected to close by the end of June 2006. Curtis Lumber is a private company founded in the late 1940s in Burnaby, BC. It has been controlled by Brian Kask Sr. since 1963. Curtis Lumber, which employs a staff of 156, posted sales of close to \$80 million in 2005.

Curtis Lumber operates six retail outlets in British Columbia: four in Burnaby, one in Langley and one in Pender Harbour (Sunshine Coast). The store network includes approximately 50,000 square feet of combined retail/warehouse space and 12 acres of outdoor lumberyard storage. Curtis Lumber also manufactures and supplies roof trusses.

RONA believes that the acquisition of Curtis Lumber will generate a number of significant strategic advantages and will allow the company to:

- Increase sales to institutions, businesses and industries in the Greater Vancouver Area.
- Expand its expertise in this field, with the addition of an experienced team.
- Have a positive impact on earnings per share.
- Achieve recurring annual synergies proportional to those achieved with earlier acquisitions.

RONA president and CEO Robert Dutton said that the transaction “is another key step in the implementation of our growth plan, which includes plans to increase sales by \$2 billion by the end of 2007 through the construction of new stores, the recruitment of affiliate dealer-owners, the acquisition of new points of sale and the overall improvement of company activities. Adding Curtis Lumber not only expands the RONA network in British Columbia, it also allows us to better serve the home renovator market as well as the institutional, commercial and industrial sector in the Greater Vancouver area.”

Brian Kask Sr., president of Curtis Lumber, is also pleased with the transaction. “We’re happy to complete the sale of the operating assets of our company to a thriving Canadian chain that understands how we go to market and one that will continue to serve all our customers in the Curtis Lumber tradition going back to the late 1940s. RONA will provide our staff with further development and growth opportunities.”

“Our customers will have an enhanced selection of products and services at great prices. RONA’s buying offices will bring exciting new merchandise and outstanding pricing to Curtis Lumber stores,” said Kask, who will stay on as a consultant during the integration. His son Brian Jr. will remain with the company as senior director of sales and purchasing, while his daughter Debbie will continue on as office manager. Once the transaction is completed, all Curtis Lumber employees will continue to work with RONA.

According to Brian Kask Sr., the sale will enable Curtis Lumber to continue to grow as a leading player in building materials and in hardware-renovation products in Greater Vancouver and throughout British Columbia, with improved and expanded services in the years ahead. “It will be business as usual...only better,” he concluded.

Three acquisitions since the beginning of 2006

The acquisition of Curtis Lumber follows two other acquisitions announced by RONA since the beginning of the year. RONA recently acquired Matériaux Coupal with nine points of sale in the Greater Montreal Area. The company also acquired a chain of eight Chester Dawe stores in Newfoundland and Labrador. These three transactions have allowed RONA to add more than \$285 million in retail sales to its network and welcome over 1,000 new employees.

Forward-looking Information

This press release contains forward-looking statements reflecting RONA’s objectives, estimates and expectations. Such statements may be marked by the use of verbs such as “believe,” “anticipate,” “estimate” and “expect” as well as the use of the future or conditional tense. By their very nature, such statements involve risks and uncertainty. Consequently, results could differ materially from the company’s projections or expectations. Factors that could cause results to differ materially from statements include among other things the fact that the expected closing of the transaction referred to in this news release is subject to customary closing conditions and certain regulatory approvals. For information on the nature of risk factors not specifically discussed in this press release, please consult RONA’s 2005 annual report under the heading “Risks and uncertainties” on page 31. The annual report is available on RONA’s website at www.rona.ca or on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

About RONA

RONA is the largest Canadian distributor and retailer of hardware, home renovation and gardening products. RONA operates a network of more than 600 franchise, affiliate and corporate stores of various sizes and formats. With over 24,000 employees working under its family of banners in all regions of Canada and more than 13 million square feet of retail space, the RONA store network generates \$5.2 billion in annual sales.

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For more information on this acquisition, please visit www.rona.ca.

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