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NEWS FROM CNW GROUP

Avison Young appoints John M. Ross Managing Director, Edmonton

10:00 EDT Thursday, May 21, 2009

TORONTO, May 21 /CNW/ - Mark E. Rose, Chair and CEO of Avison Young, announced today the appointment of commercial real estate veteran John M. Ross as Managing Director of Avison Young-Edmonton.

Effective immediately, Ross will oversee Avison Young's operations in Edmonton. As Managing Director, he will be responsible for the overall operation and direction of the Edmonton office, coordinating the efforts of the office, industrial, retail and investment teams to optimize Avison Young's delivery of service to its clients. Ross will also take on the role of Investment Team Leader, directing Edmonton's investment team and liaising with clients and team members to ensure that the best possible real estate platform is put forward.

"We are pleased to be recruiting someone of John's caliber to manage our team and to lead our investment division in Edmonton. With a strong background in management and capital markets, John will be instrumental in identifying and developing new business opportunities in the marketplace," comments Rose. "Furthermore, his leadership skills and operational and strategic expertise will be invaluable as he works in conjunction with Avison Young's other regional Managing Directors to maintain client satisfaction across all the regions in which we serve. John will also assist in driving Avison Young's next phase of growth, both domestically and internationally."

Ross has more than 30 years of experience in the real estate business, specializing in investment sales and acting on behalf of pension funds, REITS, publicly traded companies and private sector clients. For the past three years, Ross was Vice-President, Real Estate Investments for Alberta-based WAM Development Group, focusing on the Alberta and Southwestern US markets. Prior to that, he was a partner with J.J. Barnicke in Edmonton from 2000 to 2006. Over his career, Ross has been involved in real estate transactions totaling more than \$1.25 billion.

"I am excited to be joining the Avison Young team and to be associated with a reputable and sound company that is moving forward and not just running in place," says Ross. "I look forward to working with the members of Avison Young in Alberta and at the national level to continue delivering a superior level of service, to foster a strong, loyal customer base, and to satisfy the real estate needs of our clients now and in the future."

Founded in 1978, Avison Young is Canada's largest independently-owned commercial real estate services company and the only national, Canadian-owned, principal-managed real estate brokerage firm in the country. Headquartered in Toronto, Ontario and ranked

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among Canada's leading national commercial real estate organizations, Avison Young is a full-service commercial real estate company comprising more than 500 real estate professionals in 12 offices across Canada and in Chicago, IL. The company provides value-added, client-centric investment sales, leasing, advisory, management and financial services to owners and users of commercial, industrial and multi-residential real estate properties.

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Editors/Reporters:

- Photo of John Ross for Media use:

http://www.avisonyoung.com/library/pdf/Media_Releases/Temp/John_Ross.jpg

If you are unable to open the link, please contact Sherry Quan for PDF version. Thank you.

For further information/comment/photos:

- Sherry Quan, Director of Corporate Communications (B.C.), Avison Young:
(604) 647-5098 or (604) 726-0959 (cell)

- Mark Rose, Chair and CEO, Avison Young: (416) 673-4028

- John Ross, Managing Director, Avison Young-Edmonton: (780) 428-7850
www.avisonyoung.com

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For further information: Media Relations: Sherry Quan, (604) 647-5098, or (604) 726-0959, email: squan@ay-bc.com

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