



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ben Verhelst Joins
Travelers Acceptance Corporation
As Director of Sales – Western Canada**

Vancouver, BC – January 31, 2006 - Travelers Acceptance Corporation is pleased to announce that Mr. Ben Verhelst has joined the organization as Director of Sales for Western Canada.

Mr. Verhelst is responsible for Travelers' consumer finance programs offered through its Vendor Partners, and supported by his Travelers sales team based throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Northern Ontario. Mr. Verhelst supervises origination activities, implements sales programs and training initiatives, and is also responsible for development of new business opportunities. In this role, Mr. Verhelst reports directly to Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Karl Sigerist, Jr.,



"Having had the good fortune to have worked with Ben Verhelst in the past, I am delighted that Ben has joined us to lead our Western Canadian sales and marketing efforts. Ben possesses dynamic sales leadership and training skills, enhanced by a great positive attitude. I know our marketing team, our vendor partners, and our marketing initiatives will be strengthened with the benefit of Ben's talent." said Karl Sigerist, Jr.

Mr. Verhelst stated, "My new role with Travelers is an exciting opportunity to use my sales management experience to continue the expansion and growth of Travelers' consumer financing programs. I have a great sales team to assist our Western Canadian vendor partners, some of which I have already had the opportunity to meet, and together I am confident we will provide the high level of support our vendors and their clients have come to expect from Travelers."

Ben Verhelst has for the past two decades, led sales teams to top performance levels and consistently overachieved targets. For the past five years, Mr. Verhelst was Key and Major Accounts Manager for Canon in Calgary where he was top Sales Manager for the Canadian Western Region. Previously, he held sales management positions with IKON Office Solutions and Ricoh Canada in Kelowna, and IKON Office Solutions (previously Benndorf-Verster) in Vancouver.

Mr. Verhelst will be based in Calgary where he resides with his wife, Lisa, and their four children.

Travelers Financial Group is a leader in the provision of financial solutions and services to organizations, dealers, consumers, vendors and financial intermediaries in Canada. Travelers focuses on providing financial choice and the generation of value through the application of experience, service and innovation. Travelers Acceptance Corporation, a member of Travelers Financial Group, has for more than 30 years provided solutions and services specifically tailored to vendors of consumer products and services - including loans for tuition, automotive aftermarket and repair, vacation ownership, elective healthcare procedures, memberships, power products and home improvement. For more information about Travelers, visit www.travelersfinancial.com