

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RICHARDS PACKAGING INCOME FUND

Richards Packaging Income Fund announces 2009 Fourth Quarter and Annual Results

March 8, 2010, (TORONTO) -- Richards Packaging Income Fund (TSX: RPI.UN) (the "Fund") announced today results for the quarter and year ended December 31, 2009.

"Performance rebounded in the fourth quarter with organic revenue growth of 6.8%, as our customers replenished inventories drawn down during the first quarter, and gross margin was at a record 18.2% of sales when compared with the same period in 2008. EBITDA for the fourth quarter reflected the increase in gross profit margin by 1.2% of sales, as a result in the improvement in our customer mix, which fully offset the impact of foreign currency adjustments", commented Gerry Glynn, Chief Executive Officer.

"The 2009 results mirrored 2008 with revenue growth of 1.0% and EBITDA¹ up \$0.1 million despite the recession and the packaging industry down 10%. We experienced a \$2 million contraction with our top 60 customers as the higher freight costs and Canadian dollar hampered their ability to compete. More than offsetting this setback was the success of our sales team in generating new small customers which resulted in \$4 million of additional sales from 700 new customers. EBITDA¹ as a percent of sales was at 11.7%. Net income was \$13.8 million, or \$1.37 per Unit, up \$15.5 million from the same period in 2008 which mainly reflects non-cash foreign currency translation gain on our U.S. dollar denominated debt" added Mr. Glynn.

Richards Packaging made a \$1.0 million payment on the term debt in the fourth quarter. Accumulated cash on hand at yearend of \$2.0 million was available to ensure that limited seasonal borrowing is required during the first quarter of 2010.⁴

The Fund paid monthly distributions of 6.55¢ per Unit for October through December, which represents an annualized yield of 11.0% on the December 31st closing price of \$7.15 per Unit. The payout ratio³ for the fourth quarter was 74%. During the fourth quarter, 43,006 Units were purchased at an average price of \$6.98 per Unit under the normal course issuer bid.

Details of the Fund's results are currently available on Richards Packaging's website at www.richardspackaging.com and on March 9th on SEDAR at www.sedar.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gerry Glynn
Chief Executive Officer
Richards Packaging Inc.
(905) 670-7760
gglynn@richardspackaging.com

Enzio Di Gennaro
Chief Financial Officer
Richards Packaging Inc.
(905) 670-7760
edigennaro@richardspackaging.com

About Richards Packaging Income Fund

The Fund owns 85% of Richards Packaging Inc. (“Richards Packaging”), the leading packaging distributor in Canada, and third largest in North America. Richards Packaging is a full-service packaging distributor targeting small- and medium-sized North American businesses. Richards Packaging has operated for over 97 years and currently serves over 10,000 regional food, wine and spirits, cosmetic, specialty chemical, pharmaceutical and other companies from 20 locations throughout North America.

- 1 Management defines EBITDA as earnings before amortization, interest, unrealized gain / loss on financial instruments and taxes. EBITDA is the same as income before under noted items, income taxes and non-controlling interests as outlined in the annual consolidated financial statements. Management believes that in addition to net income, EBITDA is a useful supplemental measure for investors of earnings available for distribution prior to debt service, capital expenditures and taxes. Management uses this measure as a starting point in the determination of earnings available for distribution to unitholders and exchangeable shareholders. In addition, EBITDA is intended to provide additional information on the Fund’s operating performance. This earnings measure should not be construed as an alternative to net income or as an alternative to cash flow from operating, investing and financing activities as a measure of the Fund’s liquidity and cash flows. EBITDA does not have a standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP and therefore the Fund’s method of calculating EBITDA may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other companies or income trusts.*
- 2 Management defines distributable cash flow, in accordance with the Company’s credit agreement, as EBITDA less interest, cash income tax expense, maintenance capital expenditures and loan payments. The objective of presenting this measure is to calculate the amount which is available for distribution to unitholders and exchangeable shareholders. Investors are cautioned that distributable cash flow should not be construed as an alternative to cash flow from operating, investing and financing activities as a measure of the Fund’s liquidity and cash flows. Distributable cash flow does not have a standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP and therefore the Fund’s method of calculating distributable cash flow may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other income trusts.*
- 3 Management defines payout ratio as distributions and dividends declared over distributable cash flow². The objective of presenting this measure is to calculate the percentage of actual distributions in comparison to the amount available for distribution. Payout ratio does not have a standardized meaning prescribed by GAAP. The Fund’s method of calculating the payout ratio may not be comparable to similar measures presented by other income trusts.*
- 4 This release contains certain forward looking information and statements within the meaning of applicable securities laws (collectively “Statements”) regarding future growth potential, results of operations, performance and business prospects and opportunities of the Fund. The Statements are frequently identified by the use of such words as “will”, “may”, “could”, “expect”, “plan”, “anticipate”, “believe” and other similar terminology. Specifically this release contains Statements with respect to compliance with certain financial covenants and the recommencement of distributions. These Statements reflect management’s current beliefs and are based on information currently available to the management of Richards Packaging. A number of factors could cause actual events or results to differ materially from those predicted, expressed or implied in the Statements. Factors that could cause such differences include, among other things, changes in customer and supplier relationships, the extent and duration of the worldwide recession and the impact on order volumes and pricing, competition in the industry, inventory obsolescence, trade risks in respect to foreign suppliers and fluctuations in foreign exchange and interest rates. Although the Statements contained in this release are based upon what management believes to be reasonable assumptions, there can be no assurance that actual results will be consistent with these Statements. These Statements are made as of the date of this release and the Fund assumes no obligation to update or revise them to reflect new events or circumstances.*