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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# VENTURELINK ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL EXIT FROM STONE & CO. LIMITED



**TORONTO (January 8, 2006)** – VentureLink LP, manager of the VentureLink Group of labour-sponsored investment funds, is pleased to announce that it has divested its entire holdings in Stone & Co. Limited.

*“VentureLink has been a true partner for our business,” said Richard Stone, CEO of Stone Investment Group Limited. “Their patience and willingness to work with us has benefited both VentureLink as a lender and Stone’s shareholders. We are very excited about the future of Stone Investment Group Limited, which would not have been as promising without partnering with VentureLink in 2002.”*

The VentureLink Financial Services Innovation Fund, a mezzanine debt fund, originally lent Stone & Co. Limited \$2,800,000 in June of 2002, and made follow-on investments of \$900,000 in November of 2003 and \$200,000 in January of 2005. VentureLink has realized an annualized return greater than 16% from the investment.

As a part of a recent debenture offering, Stone & Co. (“SCL”) has become a wholly owned subsidiary of Stone Investment Group Limited. (“Stone”). Stone is an independent mutual fund management and investment management firm, specializing in products that meet today’s generational wealth issues. SCL was VentureLink Financial Services Innovation Fund Inc.’s second investment.

“Stone has become one of the fastest growing independent mutual fund management companies in Canada. The debenture offering provided Stone the perfect opportunity

to repay VentureLink’s debenture and position the Company for future growth” said Geoff Horton, Managing Partner of VentureLink LP.

The VentureLink Group of Funds offers Canadian investors a unique opportunity to combine the tax-advantages of labour-sponsored investment funds with the diversity of an entire family of funds. VentureLink focuses on capital preservation and long-term growth potential by making equity and debt-related investments in established small and medium-sized companies in Ontario. VentureLink funds give investors access to well-diversified portfolios of established companies operating in traditional industries such as finance, manufacturing and services as well as dynamic growth industries such as biotechnology and alternative energy. Additional information about the VentureLink Group of funds, which had approximately \$230 million in assets as of January 7, 2007, can be found at [www.venturelinkfunds.com](http://www.venturelinkfunds.com).

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