

## **The Permacon Group Acquires the Landscaping Division of Central Precast**

The Permacon Group, one of Canada's leading manufacturers of prefabricated concrete products such as pavers, walls, slabs, curbs, brick, stone and blocks, has reached an agreement to acquire the landscaping division of the Ontario based company Central Precast Inc. This transaction will enable the Permacon Group to increase its production of landscaping products by more than 25%.

“The acquisition of the landscaping division of Central Precast fits perfectly with our long-term strategy. This targets growth of more than 20% per year in order to meet the demand for our products and provide the best possible customer service,” declared Permacon Group's President and CEO, Georges Archambault. “Permacon now has more than 12 plants in Québec and Ontario, which will enable it to continue to offer an unequalled array of concrete products that meet the highest standards of quality in the industry.”

The landscaping division of Ottawa-based Central Precast has specialized in the manufacture of premium quality concrete products for more than 48 years. It has 30 employees and two plants, one of which uses the latest in concrete curing technology. The acquisition of Central Precast makes Permacon the largest company operating in this sector in Ontario.

Over the course of the last year, Permacon has also invested a total of more than \$7 million to upgrade its Montréal, Trois Rivières and Québec City plants, of which \$5 million was devoted solely to the implementation of new technologies and technological processes in its Montréal plant. These investments have expanded its ability to effectively meet the constantly increasing demand from the residential, commercial and industrial markets. Furthermore, these improvements will enable Permacon to increase its production of pavers in the coming year by an additional 30%.

“It is thanks to our many investments and R&D centre, which, with a staff of more than 12, is unique in North America, that we are able to develop new high-performance products while at the same time meet current market demands,” stated Mr. Archambault. “The industry's future lies in the development of innovative products and processes.”