

Enterprise Saint John Welcomes Ron Gaudet as New CEO

Gaudet brings wealth of experience to top economic development job

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Saint John N.B. – *Enterprise Saint John* is excited to announce that ***Ron Gaudet*** has been chosen to lead the regional economic agency as it continues to pursue job creation and innovation in our region.

"I am delighted to have the opportunity to return to New Brunswick and to work with the excellent Staff, Board and Community Partners of *Enterprise Saint John*. The Saint John region is a critically important part of the Province's economic fabric. I am thrilled to build on that heritage while focusing on an exciting, relevant and robust economic future that supports an outstanding way of living," says Ron Gaudet.

Gaudet has spent the last seven years leading a number of economic development agencies including Windsor- *Essex*, Region of *Waterloo* and has done project work with several Ontario communities including *the City of Guelph, West Lincoln and Huron County*. He also served as a special advisor on Innovation Strategies for the *University of Windsor's, Innovation Centre and Industrial Courtyard*. He is originally from New Brunswick and prior to his move to Ontario, he was the President and CEO of the Greater Moncton Economic Development Corporation (GMEC), and served as Vice President – Advancement at Crandall University.

In 2007, Gaudet was named the Canadian Economic Developer of the Year by the Economic Developers Association of Canada, as well as one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40, and one of Atlantic Canada's Top CEOs.

In June, a hiring committee was created made up of ESJ board members and the *Chair of the Regional Oversight Committee (ROC)*, City of Saint John Mayor, Don Darling. Gaudet was chosen after a lengthy search, with more than 50 candidates applying from multiple provinces and the United States.

"Ron's passion and drive for economic development has been recognized across the country. We are thrilled he has chosen to come back home to New Brunswick and bring that passion and drive to the Saint John region," says Enterprise Saint John Board Chair, Martin Chiasson.

The ESJ staff and board are grateful to current CEO, Steve Carson, for his leadership and guidance with the organization for over 20 years. He begins his role with the City of Saint

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John as Director of Strategic Real Estate in October, but will be available to help support the transition process with Mr. Gaudet.

Ron is expected to begin his new role as Enterprise Saint John's, CEO on **November 1, 2017**.

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ABOUT Martin Chiasson- Martin is the founder of ***Loosen Up Consulting*** which helps people develop their leadership capabilities and competencies. He has extensive experience in leadership roles in Sales, Finance, Customer Service and Sales Management Training in cities across Canada, including 31 years with Xerox.

ABOUT Steve Carson- Steve has lead the team at Enterprise Saint John for more than 20 years, and has been instrumental in building close connections amongst the top business leaders and organizations in our community. He successfully leveraged those relationships to help bring investment and jobs to our region.

ABOUT ROC -The Regional Oversight Committee is comprised of the mayors of Grand Bay-Westfield, Saint John, Rothesay, Quispamsis and St. Martins together with 2 representatives of the private sector investors in Enterprise Saint John. Its mandate is to appoint 11 members of the ESJ Board of Directors and together with the Board establish annual key performance indicators.

ABOUT Enterprise Saint John- Enterprise Saint John is the regional economic development agency serving Grand Bay-Westfield, Saint John, Rothesay, Quispamsis and St. Martins. Our region's growth will come from being Canada's Most Connected Community where we leverage our technology, our people and strategic location to create new start-ups, help businesses grow and attract and retain businesses to the region.

Eleanor MacLean
Communications Officer
Enterprise Saint John
(506) 608-1578
emaclean@enterprisesj.com
www.enterprisesj.com