

For Immediate Release
November 30, 2016

Kent Smith-Windsor, Executive Director of the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce, announces his retirement after 21 Years

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan—The Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce (The Chamber) announced today that long-time Executive Director Kent Smith-Windsor will retire in early 2017 after serving 21 years as its top official.

Smith-Windsor has been in discussions with the Chamber’s Board of Directors for several months to determine the optimal timing for his departure.

“It has been my honour to serve our Chamber members in this capacity. Our members, board of directors and our talented and dedicated staff team have allowed me to help build the best business climate in Canada. On behalf of my wife Maureen and our family we thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve this city and its amazing entrepreneurs,” stated Smith-Windsor.

“The Board of Directors is deeply grateful to Kent for his dedication, imagination, hard work and many achievements at The Chamber,” said Jason Yochim, President of the Chamber’s Board of Directors. “He is a tireless advocate of free enterprise, opportunity and the public policies needed for them to flourish.”

“We will miss Kent,” Yochim continued. “He has made selfless and enormous contributions to our city and community and has left the Saskatoon Chamber as the most respected business organization in our city with strong finances and some of the most engaged members in the country.”

The Human Resources and Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors has been engaged in and is managing the succession process. Part of the Committee’s strategy is to conduct a formal search for the most suitable candidate for this key position. Smith-Windsor will continue in his role until a successor has been identified.

For further information please contact Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce:

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Key Messages

- Kent Smith-Windsor has decided to retire after 20+ years leading the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce
- Kent will leave the Chamber as the most respected business organization in our city with strong finances and some of the most engaged members in the country.
- Discussions between the Board and Kent have been ongoing for several months to ensure the transition to the Chamber's next leader will be smooth.

Questions and Answers

1. Why is Kent retiring now?

Kent has served The Chamber for over 20 years and has been an outstanding leader. Kent and the Board have been in discussions for many months to determine the best timing of this announcement for Kent and his family, our staff and our members.

2. What happens next?

The Board will engage a professional search firm to assist the Board in finding Kent's successor. That process could take up to several months. In the interim, Kent will stay on as Executive Director until a successful candidate has been chosen. We will continue to provide our staff updates as they are available.

3. How long will it take to replace Kent?

At this point, we do not know how long the process will be, but we anticipate it will take up-to several months. The Board of Directors is leading this process and will be engaging a professional search firm to assist. We will continue to provide staff updates as they are available.

4. Are any of the existing staff members being considered for the Executive Director role?

At this point, it is too early to know that. The Board will engage a professional search firm to assist in the process including developing a potential list of people that could fill the role as we move forward.

5. What will happen to the roles of the existing staff?

We do not anticipate any other changes to the staff as a result of Kent's retirement. We are hopeful that the staff will stay with the organization to ensure our new Executive Director will have a smooth transition.

6. Is the Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce in trouble?

No, the Chamber is on solid ground on all levels. Kent will leave the Chamber as the most respected business organization in our city with strong finances and some of the most engaged members in the country.