

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2009

**WINDSOR ESSEX DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES
NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WINDSOR - The WindsorEssex Development Commission announced today the formation of its new Board of Directors. The 11 members of the new Board, which includes leaders from a wide cross section of key sectors, will serve the WEDC and the community on a volunteer basis. The Board appointments have all been approved and endorsed by Windsor City Council and by Essex County Council and will take effect immediately.

"We're very pleased to have this important resource in place and look forward to building on the positive momentum that the WEDC has been able to generate during the last few months," said Transitional WEDC Board Chairperson, Lindsay Boyd.

Warden Nelson Santos agreed. "We're especially pleased to see members who represent the interests of the entire region and our regional economic strengths." The new Board includes:

- Dr. Ranjana Bird, Vice President Research, University of Windsor
- Lindsay Boyd (Interim Chairperson), District Manager, Union Gas
- Joe Byrne, Partner, Hickey Byrne Barristers
- Dave Cooke, Consultant and former Member of Provincial Parliament
- Shelley Fellows, Vice President Operations, Radix Controls
- Eddie Francis, Mayor, Corporation of the City of Windsor
- Mike Mueller, National Managing Partner Retired, PriceWaterhouseCoopers
- Mike Robinson, President, PBL Insurance Limited
- Nelson Santos, Essex County Warden, Corporation of the County of Essex, Mayor of Kingsville
- Diane Soucie, President, Net Success Inc.
- Roy Verstraete, President & CEO, Anchor Danly

Windsor Mayor Eddie Francis expressed confidence that, "these dedicated individuals will bring a high level of guidance and strategic direction to our region's economic development activities."

"The diversity of skills they bring to the table will serve us well as we strive toward greater regional prosperity." He added.

The WEDC looks forward to introducing members of the new Board to regional stakeholders and partners during the next several weeks.

Contacts:

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BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

Lindsay Boyd, Interim Chairperson

Lindsay Boyd is the District Manager of Operations, Windsor/Chatham for Union Gas Limited. He has held a number of management positions at Union Gas in the areas of Sales and Distribution Operations. A past campaign chair of the Chatham-Kent United Way and past chair of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, he was also the 2003 winner of the Robinson Citizenship Award, the first Canadian to ever receive this award. He is a graduate of the University of Windsor Business School - Class of 1983.

Dr. Ranjana Bird

Dr. Ranjana Bird is a Professor in the University of Windsor's Department of Biological Sciences and the University's VP Research. A former Dean of the University of Waterloo's Graduate Studies, she is the recipient of numerous scholarships, grants and awards whose achievements include recognition by the American Association for Cancer Research for developing the original method for describing and quantifying precancerous lesions in the colon. The contribution was featured on the cover of the Journal "Cancer Research" March 15, 1998.

Joe Byrne

Joe Byrne is a life long farmer who has served 11 years as a member of Council and Deputy-Reeve in Maidstone Township. His early education included undergraduate and graduate studies in geography at the University of Windsor. While farming full time, he returned to school at age 40 to obtain a Law degree. He subsequently purchased the Hickey Brown McManus Law Firm, where he currently works. The firm is now called Hickey Byrne.

Dave Cooke

Dave Cooke is a respected public figure with direct experience developing public policy and directing its implementation. He served as a member of Ontario Legislature for twenty years during which time he served in a variety of posts in both government and opposition, including Minister of Education and Training, Chair of Management Board, Government House Leader, Minister of Municipal Affairs, and Minister of Housing. A Graduate of the University of Windsor, he is the recipient of an Honorary Diploma from St. Clair College, The Clark Award from the University of Windsor and the Queen's Jubilee Medal.

Shelley Fellows

Shelley Fellows, VP Operations at Radix Controls, one of Canada's fastest growing companies that has been recognized by Microsoft as a leading independent software vendor. She is a

dynamic leader who focuses on defining and achieving the corporation's goals, primarily in the areas of Operations, Human Resources, Finance and Marketing. She holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Windsor.

Mike Mueller

Michael J. Mueller is a former Global leader of PricewaterhouseCoopers' (PwC) Private Company Services/Middle Market Practice and a former member of PwC's Global Audit Leadership Team, Global Advisory Leadership Team and the Global Markets Council. Prior to his retirement from PwC in July 2007, his previous positions with the firm also included National Managing Partner for Canada and Senior Relationship Partner for a number of the firm's most significant clients. He is also a Chartered Accountant, a Certified Insolvency Practitioner, and a Chartered Business Valuator. In December 2008, Mr. Mueller was appointed to the Ontario Economic Advisory Panel by the Minister of Finance. Mr. Mueller's past community involvement includes: member of the Board of Governors of the Stratford Shakespearean Festival of Canada; President of the Windsor Symphony Society; and President, Better Business Bureau of Windsor and Essex Counties. He has been a Director of Hydro One since March 30, 2007.

Mike Robinson

Mike Robinson is President of PBL Insurance Group. PBL Insurance Group has 125 employees with offices in Windsor, London, Toronto and Ottawa. PBL Insurance Group is a financial services and insurance intermediary to commercial and personal clients.

He is also the Past Chair of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce in which capacity he acquired extensive knowledge of border-related situations. He currently chairs the Windsor-Essex Community Foundation.

Diane Soucie

Diane Soucie is the owner of Net Success Inc. The firm offers consulting services in workforce development research and labour market analysis, project management, strategic planning, curriculum development and employment services counseling. A former Training Consultant at St. Clair College and a Trades Updating Coordinator on behalf of St. Clair College and the Ministry of Skills Development she holds a Bachelor of Arts, Political Science Major and is a Candidate for the Masters of Adult Education through St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Roy Verstraete

Roy Verstraete is President and CEO of Anchor Danly, a Windsor-based \$180 Million manufacturer of steel die sets and accessories, machined steel and steel fabrications. He is recognized as a builder of results-driven organizations and high performance leadership teams across a variety of organizational and national cultures. He has held various positions with the Velcro Companies including Group Vice President, Americas, President and General Manager, Velcro Canada Inc. and Managing Director, Velcro Europe S.A. in Barcelona, Spain, He holds a Masters in Business Administration from York University Toronto, Canada and a Bachelors Degree in Chemical Engineering from McMaster University.