

For Release

**WINDSOR-ESSEX ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

WINDSOR, ON – On behalf of the WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation (WEEDC), Board Chair Marty Komsa, Essex County Warden Tom Bain and City of Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens are pleased to announce the new Chief Executive Officer of the WEEDC, C. Stephen MacKenzie.

“Stephen is a highly motivated and results oriented economic development professional holding dual Canadian and U.S. citizenship, with an extensive range of domestic and international experience,” stated Marty Komsa.

MacKenzie joins WEEDC with substantial knowledge of the public and private sectors and began his longstanding economic development career in the Province of Nova Scotia in 1995. He comes to WEEDC from his current position as Executive Director, Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region Inc. (seCTer), an Economic Development Corporation located in Groton, Connecticut; a region consisting of twenty-one municipalities and two tribal nations. His experience is comprised of working to support and grow a variety of industry sectors including Advanced Manufacturing, Health & Life Sciences, IT & Creative, Tourism (including casinos), Agriculture and Maritime Industries, Aerospace, Logistics and Professional Services.

Komsa added, “Stephen has a proven track record of cultivating and leveraging working relationships with policy makers, the business community, educational institutions and other economic development organizations and agencies.”

Today’s announcement by WEEDC comes after a highly expansive executive search and selection process. Working with executive search firm Odgers Berndtson, WEEDC established clear criteria for the position and advertised in Ontario-based publications, as well as through online associations and professional websites.

By the application deadline of May 30, 2016, over 100 responses were received through the advertisement and direct recruitment. Out of the 15 candidates interviewed by Odgers Berndtson, five candidates were interviewed by the Search Committee on June 27, 2016, ultimately resulting in the final interview process with two candidates. Stephen MacKenzie was selected by the Committee as the most qualified candidate.

MacKenzie expressed, "I am truly looking forward to my new role as CEO of WEEDC. This region enjoys a superior quality of life and there are strong stakeholders and partners who are committed to the well-being of the region and of WEEDC. The Windsor/Essex region has a strong business case with industry clusters that are diverse and poised for growth. The potential for investment is tremendous and there is a vital role for WEEDC to play in the region's advancement and development. I am thrilled to be joining WEEDC and look forward to building upon all this region has to offer."

Komsa, on behalf of the Board expressed his thanks to Rakesh Naidu, Chief Operating Officer, WEEDC, who has served as Interim Chief Executive Officer since August, 2015. "As Interim Chief Executive Officer, Rakesh led the WEEDC staff through this time of transition developing a strong team environment and providing continuity for the organization. He further strengthened relationships with stakeholders to bring transparency to the WEEDC operations and worked with the Board of Directors to achieve key strategic objectives. The Board is deeply appreciative of the role Rakesh has served as Interim Chief Executive Officer and looks forward to his future contributions with WEEDC," said Komsa.

Mackenzie will assume his new role effective August 29, 2016.

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About WEEDC

WindsorEssex Economic Development Corporation is a not-for-profit organization supported by the City of Windsor and County of Essex and is responsible for advancing economic development to grow and sustain prosperity in the region. The main focus of the organization is to develop and execute strategies to retain, expand, attract and help start up new businesses in the Windsor-Essex region.