

Tuesday, December 19, 2006

Benoit Girardin announces departure from SDRCC

Laval, Quebec, Benoit Girardin, one of Canada's leading experts on dispute resolution in sport, is leaving his position as Chief Executive Officer of the Sport Dispute Resolution Centre of Canada (SDRCC) to pursue other opportunities.

Over the last five years, Mr. Girardin has played a central role in the creation, design, development and day-to-day operation of one of the world's most progressive sport dispute resolution centres.

My original objective has been accomplished, stated Mr. Girardin. The Centre is now an integral part of the sport system, entrenched in federal law, and recognized internationally. After five years, it's time for me to take on a new challenge.

Mr. Girardin added that he is considering several options, but will remain in the position of CEO for the SDRCC until April 1, 2007 to assist the SDRCC in finding a new CEO and ensure a seamless transition with the new CEO.

I feel very fortunate to have been able to contribute in this way, with the help of so many colleagues and partners in the legal, ADR and sport communities, he said. In particular, I want to thank the members of the Board of Directors for their remarkable leadership and tireless support. I thank them for giving me this unique opportunity to improve the Canadian sport system. I also want to thank the broader Canadian sport community and offer my best wishes for continued success in ensuring a fair and equitable sport system.

Allan J. Stitt, President of the Board of Directors, praised Mr. Girardin's many contributions. Benoit's vision helped us create and build the Centre and we are grateful to him for his leadership, vision and contribution to ADR in sport, said Mr. Stitt. He has earned our deep respect and our sincere thanks.

Mr. Stitt added that the search for a new CEO will begin early in the New Year.

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