

**Tourism Calgary sets foundation for new Board of Directors**  
*Annual General Meeting highlights new governing structure*

Calgary, AB – Thursday, August 20, 2009: Tourism Calgary held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) this morning at the Commonwealth Hall and Conference Centre, welcoming nearly 150 voting members via presence or proxy, as well as additional guests such as industry stakeholders and partners.

The meeting ushered in a new era for Tourism Calgary, following a Special Meeting of the membership held in April that unanimously voted for a smaller, skill-based Board of Directors. Downsizing from 21 Directors to 11, six individuals presented from a slate of candidates were acclaimed by Tourism Calgary's membership today.

Immediately following the AGM the new Board held their first official meeting and named Calgary Stampede Immediate Past President, George Brookman as the new Chairman of the Board for Tourism Calgary. Treasurer was named as Dan Pigeon and Secretary will be Maureen Payne. The remaining Directors acclaimed include Adam Pekarsky, Larry Ryder, and Janet Salopek, (biographies below).

The four remaining Board positions, which are currently vacant, represent the industry sectors of Meeting, Convention & Incentive Travel; Attractions and Events; Accommodations and Transportation and Visitor Experience, and will be appointed by the new Board. A City of Calgary appointment is also part of the new Board mandate; this position will be filled in September.

"Expectations for Tourism Calgary's new Board are high, and rightfully so," stated George Brookman, newly appointed Chairman of Tourism Calgary's Board of Directors. "I truly believe our convention and conference facilities, major event hosting capabilities, attractions, atmosphere – and especially our hospitality – are second-to-none. Calgary is one of the greatest cities in North America and we are going to start today to deliver that message farther, wider and louder than it has ever been delivered before."

"Tourism Calgary staff, members and the industry at large are enthusiastic about the election of our new Board," said Aldon Wells, Interim Chief Operating Officer of Tourism Calgary. "We're excited to move forward with the transition of this new Board structure. We're not reinventing the wheel; we're just changing the tire."

Tourism Calgary is a not-for-profit, membership based organization specializing in the marketing and promotion of Calgary and area as the destination of choice for leisure and business travel. For over 50 years Tourism Calgary has been the only organization dedicated to this purpose, and has grown to include a network of over 500 businesses; from attractions and accommodations to arts groups, entertainment venues, restaurants, transportation outlets and various services.

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