

**For immediate release**

**April 2, 2009**

**TOURISM CALGARY REVAMPS BOARD STRUCTURE**  
***Changes promise smaller, more effective Board of Directors***

(Calgary, Alberta) –Today in a Special General Meeting, Tourism Calgary members voted overwhelmingly in favour of amending Tourism Calgary’s current bylaws to support changes to the organization’s governance practices. The changes will create a smaller, more effective, competency-based Tourism Calgary Board with representation from all industry sectors.

Specifically, the amended bylaws will reduce the size of the current Board of Directors from 20 voting directors to 11 – six of those to be elected at large by Tourism Calgary’s membership and five to be appointed. Of the five appointed members, one will be appointed directly by the City of Calgary and one will be selected from each of the following industry sectors: Meetings, Conventions & Incentive Travel; Attractions and Events; Accommodations; and Transportation & Visitor Experience. Tourism Calgary’s Chairman says the changes are an important step in the evolution of the organization and will help position it to be even more effective in the future.

“Tourism Calgary has been working for some time to improve its governance practices,” said Earl K. Williams, Tourism Calgary Chairman. “The Governance Committee of our Board reviewed a number of models and practices before recommending the proposed changes to our members. This re-structuring is well-aligned with both key trends in corporate governance and the needs of our members. In fact, our changes are similar to those implemented this spring by the Province of Alberta for the new crown corporation Travel Alberta.”

As a result of the amendments to the bylaws, Tourism Calgary will reduce the size of the Board, implement a competency-based eligibility requirement for board member recruitment and engagement, allow non-Tourism Calgary members to stand for election and appoint directors from the four industry sectors mentioned above. Calgary’s Mayor says Tourism Calgary plays a critical role in marketing the city and new leadership at both the Board and executive levels will energize the organization.

“This is a very important time in tourism and there are many challenges in this current environment,” said Calgary Mayor Dave Bronconnier. “I look forward to working with members of the Board along with our industry partners in moving forward.”

More than 99 percent in attendance at the Special General Meeting voted in support of the motion. “There’s no question in my mind that a smaller board is a more effective board,” said Brian Guichon, Riley & McCormick President and long-time Tourism Calgary member. “Tourism Calgary has a large and diverse membership and they all have different needs. A smaller, more focused board with a long-term vision is exactly what we need.”

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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. For more information, please contact:

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