

News Release

For immediate release

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REAL Board of Directors provides update on actions in response to Cuff and Associates report

Board recommends transition of Tourism Regina from within REAL

Regina, Saskatchewan – The Regina Exhibition Association Limited (REAL) Board of Directors has announced an update regarding the recommended actions of the Cuff and Associates Report, including Tourism Regina and its positioning within REAL.

The board continues to advance the recommended actions of the Cuff and Associates Report. It has completed a review of its governance policies, is currently performing a review of REAL's operational procedures and decision-making processes and is engaging with local agencies to support enhanced training for the REAL team. The board has also completed a review of the organizational structure for REAL and Tourism Regina.

On October 5, 2023, the board hosted a special meeting to discuss the future of Tourism Regina. In this meeting it was the unanimous decision of the board that the management responsibility of Tourism Regina be removed from the current Unanimous Members Agreement between the City of Regina and REAL prior to December 31, 2023. The board issued a letter on October 16, 2023, to request that City Council consider the amendment and that the strategic leadership of Tourism Regina be removed from REAL and transitioned as the City of Regina sees fit.

"The importance of tourism to the economic resilience of Regina is essential," said Wayne Morsky, Chair, REAL Board of Directors. "Although the amenities and operations of REAL are core to the success of the visitor economy, it is the position of the Board of Directors that the transition of Tourism Regina from within REAL is the best path forward to ensure the success of both organizations and the overall growth of tourism in Regina."

Based on the findings of the independent external review performed by George Cuff and Associates, it is the position of the Board of Directors that REAL must focus on the core business of the organization. There is much work to be done as REAL continues to recover from the transformational impacts of COVID-19.

Details regarding Tourism Regina's possible transition from REAL cannot be established until City Council considers this request. If the recommendation is approved by Council, the transition from REAL to the City of Regina would be complete by December 31, 2023.

To respect Council's pending decision on this matter, REAL will not be available for additional comments until post Council meeting on November 8th.

About Regina Exhibition Association Limited (REAL)

Owned by the City of Regina and situated in the heart of Regina, Regina Exhibition Association Limited (REAL) is the largest interconnected event complex in Canada. It is the home of the REAL District and is the centre of sport and rec, business, entertainment, and agriculture for the community. REAL is a not-for-profit corporation that operates the 100-acre property. The REAL District hosts most of Regina's major events, including Canada's Farm Show presented by Viterra, Queen City Ex presented by SaskTel, and Canadian Western Agribition. It is also home to the Saskatchewan Roughriders, Regina Pats, Regina Soccer Association, many minor and recreational sports, concerts, trade shows, and conventions. Visit www.real1884.ca.

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