

NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



CENTREVENTURE HIRES WINNIPEG LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT ROSS MCGOWAN AS DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY'S NEW CEO

McGowan to Put Experience in Urban and Community Development to Work as CentreVenture Gears Up to Implement its New Revitalization Strategy

WINNIPEG – Polly Craik, chair of the board of CentreVenture Development Corporation, today announced that Mr. Ross McGowan has been hired as President & CEO of the downtown development agency. The well-respected Winnipeg landscape architect has already begun briefings and consultations which will enable him to hit the ground running when he officially assumes his new role full-time on April 1, 2007.

Following City Council's unanimous endorsement of CentreVenture's new strategic Heart of Gold Plan, the board decided the time was right to re-establish the chief executive post. McGowan agreed to take on the challenging job, putting his experience in community development and urban design to work on revitalizing the downtown.

"CentreVenture is indeed fortunate to have person with Ross's experience and commitment on the CentreVenture team to lead the charge in advancing development strategies for the downtown," said Craik.

"The board has great confidence in Ross's ability to take CentreVenture to the next level and provide the leadership necessary to foster the ongoing resurgence in the heart of our city," Craik added.

McGowan, who became well-acquainted with CentreVenture during his tenure as development manager and joint venture partner of the Ship Street Village condominiums on Waterfront Drive, said, "I had originally planned to take some time to explore a variety of potential new pursuits, but I was so enticed by the challenge that the CentreVenture Board presented, I jumped at the opportunity. I look forward to working with our downtown partners, the City and the development community to build on the initiatives to date."

Under McGowan's leadership, Ida Albo will continue her work in spearheading the public destinations component of the Heart of Gold Plan. John Hodgert, having completed, his work on the Heart of Gold Plan, has moved on to other projects.

CentreVenture has been an advocate and catalyst for business investment and development in Winnipeg's downtown since 1999. The arms-length city agency works in partnership with the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, and in concert with the private sector, to revitalize the city centre with an emphasis on redevelopment of vacant downtown property.