



News Release
For immediate release

REAL Appoints New CEO to Continue Bold Transformation

Regina, SK – June 9, 2025 – The Regina Exhibition Association Limited (REAL) is pleased to announce the appointment of **Rick Bennett** as its new President & Chief Executive Officer, effective **June 16, 2025**.

Bennett is a transformational leader with over 20 years of international executive experience in hospitality, sports, tourism, and venue operations. He has led operations for destination venues, multi-use districts, and civic venues across three continents, including turnaround work in complex financial environments and reputation rebuilds for public-facing organizations.

“Rick brings a powerful combination of global experience and people-first leadership,” said Jaime Boldt, Chair of the REAL Board of Directors. “He’s the right leader to guide REAL through this next phase of growth, bringing stability, energy, and long-term focus.”

“REAL is more than a venue operator; it’s a driver of Regina’s economic and cultural life. Rick’s appointment signals a renewed commitment to delivering value for residents, partners, and the broader community.”

Most recently, Bennett has led customer-driven organizations through periods of significant change, balancing bold strategic shifts with operational discipline and stakeholder collaboration. His leadership is grounded in clarity, culture, and execution.

“I’m honoured to join REAL at such a pivotal moment,” said Rick Bennett. “There’s strong momentum already underway, and I’m excited to help accelerate that progress and shape a future our team and community can be proud of.”

REAL also extends its gratitude to Trent Fraser, who stepped into the Interim CEO role in April. His steady leadership during this period of transition has been instrumental.

“We’re grateful to Trent for his commitment and leadership,” said Boldt. “He’ll remain involved during this onboarding period to ensure a smooth and thoughtful transition.”

Bennett’s early focus will include financial stabilization, workforce engagement, stakeholder trust, and long-term planning. His appointment marks a significant step forward in REAL’s continued evolution as a civic and economic anchor for Regina and the province.

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For more information, please contact:

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Regina Exhibition Association Limited (REAL)
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Jaime Boldt will be available for media interviews during the following times:

Monday, June 9, 2025: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Tuesday, June 10, 2025: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Rick Bennett will be available for media interviews during the following time:

Tuesday, June 17: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

About 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 realdistrict.ca