



Assiniboine Park Conservancy Announces Ray Karasevich as Next President & CEO

For immediate release: Winnipeg, Manitoba, December 15, 2022 – The Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) Board of Directors is pleased to announce Ray Karasevich as the next President & CEO of the organization.

“Mr. Karasevich possesses an impressive and unique combination of senior executive experience, advanced education, and community involvement. He has proven leadership qualities and a demonstrated ability to build strategic relationships across sectors. We believe Mr. Karasevich is the right person to lead the Conservancy at this time and look forward to welcoming him to the organization in the new year,” said Don Streuber, Vice-Chair of the APC Board of Directors and Chair of the CEO Search Committee.

Karasevich will come to APC with more than 20 years of experience in higher education, economic development, and senior leadership positions with the Manitoba provincial government. Most recently, Karasevich has served as President & CEO of the Manitoba Institute of Trades & Technology (MITT), a position he has held for five years after first serving as the organization’s Vice-President, Academic. He holds a Doctor of Education from Western University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Manitoba. Karasevich currently serves on the boards of the Manitoba Opera, Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council, Colleges and Institutes Canada, and the Manitoba Post Secondary President’s Council. He has also previously served on related boards including the Churchill Northern Studies Centre and, in his personal life, Ray is an avid outdoors enthusiast.

Karasevich will take over from APC’s current and founding President & CEO, Margaret Redmond, who will step down in January after over 14 years of service. With the support of APC’s Board of Directors, Karasevich will be responsible for leading the implementation of a new five-year strategic plan that will chart a course for the future of Assiniboine Park and Zoo as APC enters a new phase of operations, shifting focus from major capital development to sustainable operation and stewardship of the Park’s world-class attractions, amenities, and services.

“As a proud Winnipegger, I have admired and supported the revitalization of Assiniboine Park and Zoo, which has come to completion with the opening of The Leaf. I am looking forward to the next chapter and all the opportunities that lie ahead, to building new partnerships within our community, and to working with Conservancy staff and volunteers to bring these incredible spaces, attractions, and amenities to life in new, meaningful, and memorable ways,” said Karasevich, who will officially assume the role of President & CEO in January.

January will also be marked by changes on APC's Board of Directors. Founding and current board chair, Hartley Richardson, will step down along with founding directors Harvey Sexter, Greg Doyle, and Dave Johnston. Doug Pollard, Co-CEO of Pollard Banknote, will take over as board chair while Dan Hursh, Vice President and General Counsel for True North Sports + Entertainment, will assume the role of vice-chair. Founding Vice-Chair Don Streuber will stay on as a director for another year to support the transition of board leadership.

"I would like to thank Hartley Richardson and all past board directors for their steadfast leadership, unwavering vision, and valuable guidance over the years. I look forward to working with our current Board of Directors, Ray Karasevich, and all those who work at and support the Conservancy as we enter this next chapter in Assiniboine Park's ongoing story," said Doug Pollard, incoming Chair of the APC Board of Directors.

About the Assiniboine Park Conservancy:

The Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) was created in 2008 by the City of Winnipeg and given a mandate to establish the future vision for the Park and Zoo and carry out this transformation while protecting the Park's cherished character and ensuring its long-term financial viability. In 2009, in partnership with the City of Winnipeg, APC unveiled a visionary redevelopment plan designed to breathe new life into the Park and Zoo. The first phase focused on renewal in the heart of the Park. The second phase was highlighted by the modernization of the Zoo and opening of the award-winning Journey to Churchill exhibit. In the third phase, the focus shifted from the animal kingdom to the life-sustaining world of plants with the opening of The Leaf – Canada's Diversity Gardens.

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