

Communique

Canadian Council on Social Development
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Winnipeg man heads national research organization



Peter Bleyer, President of the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD), is pleased to announce the election of Wayne Helgason as chair of the Council's board of directors.

"Wayne brings a wealth of valuable skills to his new role," said Mr. Bleyer. "His experience as CEO of the Winnipeg Social Planning and the breadth of his involvement in a wide variety of organizations, at all levels, will be an enormous asset to the CCSD's research work and community outreach."

Mr. Helgason has been the Chief Executive Office of the Winnipeg Social Planning Council of Winnipeg since 1994. He also served as Executive Director of the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre for five years. Prior to that, he supervised social workers and was senior director of resource development with the Northwest Child and Family Services.

Mr. Helgason has filled a variety of roles on the boards of many public, private and non-profit organizations across Canada, including the United Way of Canada, the National Association of Friendship Centres, the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development, Canada West Foundation, Volunteer Canada, and the Canadian Health Network.

He is a popular and knowledgeable speaker on issues of children at risk, poverty, employment and training, Aboriginal self-government, human rights, and social security reform. He has also been a lecturer at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Preventative Medicine, the Banff School of Management, and the Canadian Centre for Management Development in Ottawa.

Mr. Helgason is a graduate of Carleton University. He recently participated in a certificate program on negotiation at Harvard University, with a specific focus on Aboriginal community and economic development.

He and his family live in Winnipeg.

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To arrange an interview, contact Wayne Helgason at 204-943-2561 in Winnipeg or Gail Dugas in Ottawa at 613-236-5868, ext. 226.

Established in 1920, the Canadian Council on Social Development is Canada's oldest social research organization. For more information, go to www.ccsd.ca.