

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stuart MacLean announces retirement

WCB Nova Scotia Chief Executive Officer led organization to financial sustainability, inspired safer workplaces across the province.

After dedicating 36 years to inspiring safer workplaces, Stuart MacLean is retiring from WCB Nova Scotia.

Stuart joined the WCB in 1986, quickly progressing through management and executive roles. He has served as Chief Executive Officer since 2012. As CEO, he has guided the WCB through a comprehensive modernization and into an era of financial sustainability, and workplace injury has declined by nearly 20 per cent in our province.

In particular, Nova Scotia's fishing sector has become a safer place to work. Both the human and financial impact of injury in the sector have significantly declined over time – there are fewer injuries and the diverse employers who make up the sector pay less than they historically have for workers' compensation coverage. The industry rate for salt-water fishing is less than half what it was in 2013.

While Nova Scotia's growing safety culture is his proudest accomplishment, the retirement of the WCB's unfunded liability stands as a testament to Stuart MacLean's leadership, marking the end of decades of financial instability. He has also overseen the WCB's recent business transformation – moving from a paper-based system to a world-class insurance software suite. The multi-year transformational change included moving to direct deposit for workers, online service channels, and much more as the WCB modernized to better serve workers and employers for the future.

Stuart is a professional executive coach and a long-time community volunteer. He has served a number of organizations in a governance capacity, including a current seat on the Board of Governors for Acadia University. He will continue to serve as the WCB's CEO until the end of November.

Following Stuart's retirement, Shelley Rowan will serve as the WCB's Interim CEO. As an executive leader and safety champion at the WCB for almost 25 years, Shelley's strategic thinking has been foundational to the WCB's progress. She has inspired change, forged key relationships, and delivered strategies and programs that are improving how the WCB serves Nova Scotia's workers and employers. Shelley is currently Vice President of People and Strategy.

The search for a new CEO will begin later this month.

Quotes

"WCB Nova Scotia is grateful for Stuart's leadership over the past 10 years, as he navigated our modernization and achieved the funded status that will be the foundation for a positive impact on the overall system. Nova Scotia is a safer province because of Stuart MacLean. I want to take this opportunity on behalf of my board, employees, and stakeholders from across Nova Scotia to say thank you, Stuart, for all that you have done for our province.

Saeed El-Darahali, Chair, WCB Nova Scotia Board of Directors

"It has been an incredible privilege to lead this organization and to work with so many talented and dedicated safety champions. Together we have faced difficult challenges and made remarkable progress. I know that under Shelley's leadership that progress will continue, and that WCB Nova Scotia will continue to play a vital role in building an even stronger safety culture for workers and workplaces across our province, into the future."

Stuart MacLean, CEO, WCB Nova Scotia

"When it comes to safety, Stuart MacLean walks the talk. He not only made a statement about the life-changing importance of safety on our waters, but he initiated a movement. He supported leadership in a way that enabled true and lasting change. Today, as a result, PFDs are a normal practice on the water."

Noel Despres, President and CEO, Comeau Sea Foods Ltd.

Chair of the Fisheries Safety Association in 2015, for the launch of [Fishing Safety Now](#)

"Stuart MacLean is a friend, a colleague, and an invaluable partner to Threads of Life. I know that Stuart feels each and every workplace loss deeply, he shows genuine empathy and concern when meeting with family members who have been impacted by tragedy. All of us in the Threads of Life family have deeply valued our relationship and work together. We wish Stuart the best and we look forward to continued partnership with WCB Nova Scotia."

Shirley Hickman, Executive Director, [Threads of Life](#)

National charity supporting families impacted by workplace tragedy

"It has been my privilege to work with Stuart MacLean in helping to prevent workplace injuries and support safe and timely return to work in Nova Scotia's workplaces. I consider it an honour to serve as interim CEO, as we move onward in a new and exciting environment. I look forward to working with the WCB Board of Directors, our stakeholders, and my colleagues at the WCB to continue to evolve the system, charting a new course for tomorrow."

Shelley Rowan, VP, People and Strategy and incoming interim CEO, WCB Nova Scotia

Photo Assets

[Stuart MacLean – Headshot](#)

[Stuart MacLean – Fishing Safety](#)

[Shelley Rowan – Headshot](#)

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