



January 25th, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**New CEO Appointed at the Pictou County Partnership:
A Vision for Sustainable Growth and Community Collaboration**

PIKTUK/PICTOU COUNTY, NS - The Board of Directors of the Pictou County Partnership is pleased to announce the appointment of Wade Tibbo as its new Chief Executive Officer effective immediately. With a deep-rooted passion for rural community economic development and a personal connection to the region, Wade Tibbo is set to lead the organization towards an impactful future.

A Pictou County resident and the Partnership's former Director of Business Development & Innovation, Wade Tibbo delivered on significant achievements, including the establishment of the Micro Loan Program in collaboration with the Pictou County Chamber of Commerce and East Coast Credit Union, and the innovative Newcomer Business Navigation program. The ELEVATE program has empowered small businesses to reach new heights. His strategic focus on regional initiatives has furthered development in critical sectors such as aquaculture, bioeconomy, renewable energy, and reducing barriers to economic growth such as housing.

"The board established a committee to search for a permanent CEO for the organization immediately following Scott Ferguson's resignation. We quickly realized that we had the best candidate already in the interim position. I could not be happier with the progress of this team over the past 2 years. I look forward to watching the continued momentum they have created as a team. The appointment of Wade to the CEO position will add further stability to the organization and will ensure the continuity of the impressive work being accomplished in the community," said Ryan Fraser, Chair, Board of Directors.

Tibbo brings a unique perspective to his new role. "As a father of two young boys and the husband of a dedicated nurse, my commitment to Pictou County's growth is personal. My wife's family's roots are here, and my own upbringing in neighbouring Guysborough County, deepens my resolve to see our region flourish," said Tibbo. "I am excited to leverage my experience and passion to drive the Pictou County Partnership forward, ensuring we remain the hub of collaboration towards economic prosperity."

Committed to enhancing communication with the community, Wade is dedicated to transparency and engagement regarding the Partnership's activities and initiatives. "Our goal is to be the cornerstone of economic development in Pictou County. With our central location to major Atlantic hubs and home to educational institutions, manufacturing giants, and global companies, we are poised for growth in innovative and sustainable sectors," he added. "I look forward to working with our municipal, provincial and federal partners, economic development ecosystem partners, and our incredible team of staff to build a more prosperous Pictou County."

"Wade's appointment comes at a crucial time as we navigate the evolving economic landscape of our region. His deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities in Pictou County, coupled with his commitment to inclusive and sustainable development aligns perfectly with our vision. His leadership has already proven instrumental in fostering collaboration across our diverse communities, including Pictou Landing First Nation and various municipal units, as well as with the Province of Nova Scotia. We are confident that his guidance will be invaluable in our collective pursuit of a vibrant and prosperous future for Pictou County," said Nicole LeBlanc, Chair, LOC and councillor Town of Trenton.

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For more information contact Lynne Jamieson, lynne.jamieson@pictoucountypartnership.com