



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

The Power of Knowledge and Leadership

International Economic Development Council
734 15th Street NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005
Phone: (202) 223-7800
Fax: (202) 223-4745
Website: www.iedconline.org

Media Release

For Immediate Release: October 22, 2013

Contact: Erin Way at (202) 942-9474

International Economic Development Council Awards Certified Economic Developer Status to Top Ontario Professionals

WASHINGTON, DC (October 22, 2013) - On October 9, 2013, three of Ontario's most influential economic developers were accepted as Certified Economic Developers (CEcD) under the terms of the recently signed MOU between [International Economic Development Council \(IEDC\)](#) and [Economic Developers Council of Ontario \(EDCO\)](#).

Jeffrey Finkle, President and CEO of IEDC commented, "It is great that we have already had a huge amount of interest from Canadian practitioners in obtaining the CEcD. It is also a pleasure for us to grant these earliest Ontario CEcDs to such influential women in the economic development profession in Ontario."

Heather Lalonde has served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Economic Developers Council of Ontario since 1997. Prior to joining EDCO, Heather was the Economic Development Officer for the City of Peterborough.

Ms. Lalonde holds a diploma from Fleming College in Peterborough, Ontario in Tourism and Transportation, a certificate from the University of Waterloo Economic Development Program, and is an EDAC-certified Economic Developer (EcD). She was also a University of Quebec language and culture student. Ms. Lalonde sits as a Governor at St. Lawrence College and is an adjudicator for the Invest Canada Community Initiative.

Jennifer Patterson currently serves as President of EDCO. She has been an active member of EDCO for over 12 years as well as a member of both Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) and IEDC.

Jennifer is the Senior Business Development Consultant for the City of Hamilton's Economic Development & Real Estate Department. Jennifer's current role is to lead on new investment opportunities for the City of Hamilton's economic development team, which involves responding to new business leads, working closely with the real estate development community, and liaising with key government, academic and community partners.

Susan Amring is the Director of Economic Development for the City of Mississauga, Ontario. Susan has

more than 25 years of municipal government management experience covering economic development, planning, communications and the Mayor's Office. As her current responsibilities include business attraction, business retention, business start-up, marketing and research, Ms. Amring is always seeking opportunities to understand the evolving needs of business and match the offerings of the City of Mississauga with forward-looking businesses.

Ms. Amring has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo and has received her designation as an EDAC-certified Economic Developer (Ec.D.) from the Economic Development Association of Canada

About the International Economic Development Council

The [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,000 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. www.iedconline.org.

About the Certified Economic Developer (CEcD)

The [CEcD designation](#) recognizes qualified and dedicated practitioners in the economic development field and sets the standard of excellence within the profession. Candidates must pass a rigorous and comprehensive three-part, two-day examination, which tests a practitioner's knowledge, proficiency and judgment in the key areas of economic development, including business retention and expansion, marketing, finance, workforce development, community development, real estate, strategic planning, and management.

As highly competent economic development practitioners, Certified Economic Developers work with public officials, business leaders and community members to create leadership to build upon and maximize the economic development sector. Excellence in the economic development profession improves the well being, quality of life and opportunities for individuals, businesses and communities. There are over 1,000 CEcDs in North America.

###