

The Golden CEOs

Golden Opportunities Fund is Saskatchewan's first and largest provincial Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Fund. Golden Opportunities' strength lies in its investee companies which are led by outstanding individuals. The Golden CEOs is a series that will highlight some of the people behind the most promising companies in Saskatchewan.

Michael C. Erickson, President and CEO, Renegade Oil & Gas (Saskatchewan) Ltd.



Renegade is a private oil and gas exploration and development company focused in Saskatchewan. President and CEO Michael Erickson and his partner founded the company in 2004. Michael has assembled a team of successful oil and gas professionals with over 100 years of combined experience in the industry. Since inception, the Company has achieved a drilling success rate of over 80% predominately on exploration plays. Renegade has acquired a land base of over 50,000 net acres, primarily located in southeast and southwest Saskatchewan. Renegade's team of professionals have consistently employed innovative and state of the art techniques in horizontal drilling and well completions. This approach has led to solid long-lived production in the Viewfield Bakken play and other light oil formations. The Company's Bakken drilling is focused in established areas such as Stoughton-Heward as well as emerging areas such as Ceylon, a region in southeast Saskatchewan. The company's first well in the Ceylon region is currently outperforming many Viewfield Bakken horizontal plays. Renegade is proud to be a Williston Basin (Saskatchewan) explorer since its inception 4 years ago.

Ron Brown, CEO, Western Building Centres Limited



More than 41% of Canadian small business owners plan to exit their business in the next five years; an additional 30% plan to exit within the next six to ten years. Ron Brown, CEO of Western Building Centres, has strategically positioned the company to take advantage of these opportunities. Western's long term objective is to continue to consolidate existing profitable Home Hardware branded operations as well as other independent operations and rebrand them as Home Hardware outlets. The trend toward consolidations has become increasingly popular as the number of business owners interested in exiting their businesses increases. Western's initial acquisition consisted of a Home Hardware Building Centre in North Battleford. This business includes an RTM Housing division and has experienced significant growth over the past few years driven by Saskatchewan's economic and construction boom as well as the increase in mining and oil and gas activities in nearby areas. Most recently, to further diversify its income stream Western completed a second acquisition of B.W. Baerg Truss Manufacturing in Saskatoon, a leader in the booming truss manufacturing market.

Peter Matthewman, President, Performance Plants Inc.



Performance Plants is a leading global ag-biotechnology company with patented weatherproofing traits that protect crops, maximize yields, enhance productivity and improve profitability for farmers. Peter Matthewman brings the company over 20 years of experience in the crop protection and ag-biotechnology industry. Since its founding in 1995, the Company has worked closely with farmers while field testing its technologies in crops and now has eight proprietary technologies and a portfolio of 103 issued and pending worldwide patents. It has licensed technologies to several of the world's leading seed companies that, when combined, control over half of North America's seed market. The Company's most advanced technology, Yield Protection Technology® (YPT®), is used to improve yields in crops including corn, soybeans, turfgrass, rice, canola, cotton and horticultural products. Food crop activities are centered at a crop development facility at Innovation Place in Saskatoon, a hub for ag-biotechnology research in Canada. R&D facilities in Kingston, Ontario, Waterloo and New York are focused on technology discovery and biofuel crop development. Performance Plants was selected as one of the most promising early stage biotechnology companies at BIOTEC Canada's Recognition Awards and was recently the recipient of the largest private investment in an ag-biotechnology company in Canada.

Ed Stromsmoe, President, Golden Health Care Inc.



Seniors are one of the fastest growing population groups in Canada and Saskatchewan has the highest percentage of seniors of all the Canadian provinces with 15%, one in every seven people, of its population over the age of 65. As a result, there is an increasing need for senior care facilities. Ed Stromsmoe is the President of Golden Health Care, a Company that specializes in the development of long term care facilities for elderly residents. Golden Health Care's facilities move away from the traditional nursing home setting by creating a facility that responds to residents needs as they age. The concept used is based on an age-in-place model which adapts several components of the Eden Alternative philosophy. This model recognizes the spiritual, physical, environmental and psychological needs of seniors by stimulating a "home-like" atmosphere to enhance their well-being and self-worth. As residents age and their care needs change, Golden Health Care's facility is able to accommodate these needs without residents having to move outside the facility. Golden Health Care's first licensed facility, located in Prince Albert, can accommodate up to 62 residents and is currently operating at full capacity with a significant waiting list of applicants.