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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maritime College of Forest Technology Appoints New Executive Director

FREDERICTON, NB – July 24, 2024 - The Board of Governors of the Maritime College of Forest Technology (MCFT) is pleased to announce the appointment of Michel LeBlanc as its next Executive Director.

Michel brings an extensive track record of senior leadership experience as a public servant within the province of New Brunswick for a period spanning over 15 years. Michel is fluently bilingual and has spent a large part of his career working within the provincial government to promote continuous improvement and strategically identifying efficiencies to the betterment of programs and services offered to New Brunswick's citizens. He has a deep appreciation for operational excellence, building and fostering partnerships at all levels, and cultivating and empowering high-performing teams.

Based in Fredericton, Michel spent the earlier stages of his career as a forester before moving into progressively senior leadership roles with the Government of New Brunswick, including with Service New Brunswick, the Executive Council Office as well as both advisory and leadership roles with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development where he has gained critical insights into the province's education sector. As a forester, Michel worked in roles involving harvesting, silviculture, road building, transportation, aerial surveys (both stand management and wildlife), forest fire management, GIS and sawmills.

More recently, Michel has served as the Director of Research and Provincial Evaluations for the francophone sector where he was responsible for overseeing the effective implementation and delivery of over 25,000 provincial evaluations per year across the province of New Brunswick. During this timeframe, he also had the opportunity to take on the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister role for the Secteur des services éducatifs francophone for the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. Currently, Michel is the Acting Assistant Deputy Minister for Early Learning and Childcare with the province where he provides leadership and oversight for the division's operations, the licensing and monitoring of over 850 childcare facilities across the province, the implementation of the NB Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement and championing the implementation of the NB School Food Program.

"We are thrilled to have Michel join MCFT as its next Executive Director," shared MCFT Board of Governors Chair, Heather Boyd. "Michel has demonstrated strength in strategic leadership, operational expertise, process improvement and change management, oversight for highly complex portfolios, and excellence in building and cultivating strong relationships across both the public and private sectors throughout his career. His insights into New Brunswick's education sector, his background and education in forestry, his bilingualism, and commitment to the College's mission and vision for the future will serve as extremely beneficial to the College as it moves into this important next chapter in its history."

Michel has a Bachelor in Forestry from the Université de Moncton, a PROSCI change management certificate, numerous leadership courses and is a certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt.

“I am delighted to be joining the MCFT team,” says Michel LeBlanc. “I developed an interest in forestry as a child when I spent time at a relative’s woodlot. Today, I manage a woodlot/sugarbush with my family. The forest is where I find peace, inspiration and have come to understand that learning does not stop at the end of our academic pathway. The forestry sector has a wide range of opportunities for MCFT graduates. I look forward to continuing to build on MCFT’s vision to be the recognized leader in forestry and natural resource education. ”

For more information about the Maritime College of Forest Technology, please visit www.mcft.ca.

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