

RADF Welcomes New CEO James Gibbins Aboard

Rural Alberta's Development Fund welcomed a new team member to the organization at the beginning of April as James Gibbins took on the role of Chief Executive Officer.

Gibbins comes to RADF after three years with the Canadian Diabetes Association as Executive Director, for Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Territories. Gibbins also has extensive experience with his own award winning entrepreneurial endeavors which vary from building a network of computer rural connectivity service centres, to consulting in the oil and gas industry to founding and building a successful national document management firm.



New RADF CEO James Gibbins

As a lifelong Albertan, Gibbins has experienced both rural and urban life having lived in towns like Castor, New Sarepta, Halkirk and Swan Hills and the cities of Calgary and Edmonton. Currently he lives on an acreage outside of Stony Plain, which offers his family a healthy balance between urban and rural lifestyles.

When asked what attracted him to the CEO position at RADF, Gibbins said he was enticed by the opportunity to help build capacity in rural Alberta by helping rural Albertans achieve their goals and potential.

“From a business perspective I’ve had the opportunity to work extensively with rural Albertans and rural communities,” said Gibbins. “The passion people have for their community’s potential increases exponentially as you move away from the major urban areas. The challenge is connecting the right people at the right time to best harness this passion and potential, and that’s exciting for me.”

One of the strengths Gibbins will bring to the role of RADF CEO is identifying those communities that have the motivation and desire to take the necessary steps to realize their potential as communities. “Whether a community’s need is skills, abilities, capacity or leadership, we can be a centre of excellence that can help match that need with the right resource,” he said.

Gibbins plans on expanding RADF’s already considerable knowledge base, networks and relationships to allow better connectivity between communities and partners that can help them meet their goals.

“I’m also looking forward to seeing the results of the works that’s been done by our funded project over the first four years of RADF’s existence, because it is about outcomes when you come down to it,” said Gibbins. “I think the staff, the Board and the people behind the projects supported by RADF have done a marvelous job. They’ve done everything that’s been asked of them and more.

As it continues to evolve as an organization Gibbins says that it is vital RADF continues to build on its knowledge base, processes, experience and relationships as it strives to become a center of excellence for rural Alberta to turn to for help with community capacity building and leadership training.