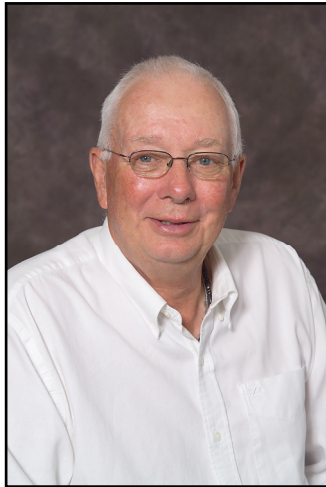


RADF Chair and Managing Director to Step Down in 2010

Since opening its doors for business in 2006 Rural Alberta's Development Fund has benefited from the leadership of Chair Bob Clark and Managing Director Terry Keyko. Recently both Mr. Clark and Mr. Keyko announced they would be stepping down from their positions with RADF in the spring of 2010.



Chairman Bob Clark

In the New Year Clark will be easing his way into retirement, or as much as a retirement as is possible for a man with his passion and drive to see rural Alberta thrive. Clark has accepted a position on the Olds College Board of Governors. His term is set to run to the end of 2012.

Clark publicly announced he would be stepping down as RADF chair at the *2009 RADF Project Showcase* held in Edmonton at the end of November. "I have grandchildren who think Grandpa should be around more often, especially during hockey season," he joked during the announcement.

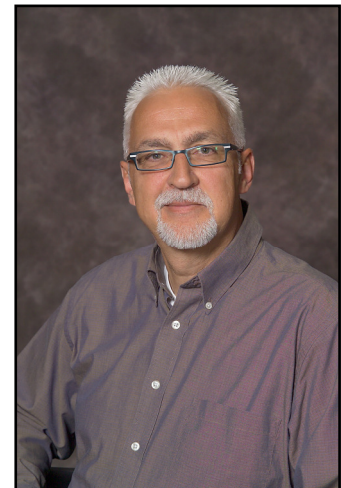
For Keyko 2010 brings an end to his contract with RADF and a return to the Government of Alberta. Keyko feels that this is the perfect time to bring new voices into RADF.

"This is a time when the organization is making some important changes and I think it can benefit from some new and different skills, experiences and leadership. It's a good time to make the transition."

Keyko was brought in by then Co-Chairs Bob Clark and Fred Estlin to help create the organization from scratch.

"The greatest challenge was getting the program up and running quickly," he says. "We went from having no organization, to putting together the board, a business plan and a program and staffing team to approving our first project in six months."

"Looking back three years I believe that the projects we have funded are showing the successes we had envisioned. For me, I'm proud that we were able to stick to the philosophy that RADF was about a hand up, not a hand out. What we are truly doing is leaving behind a legacy for rural communities and rural organizations to continue to build on."



**Managing Director
Terry Keyko**

Mr. Clark echoes the statement that this period of transition is the perfect time for him to step away as well.

“We have close to \$70 million in funding out to rural Alberta at this point and RADF is now entering a new phase as Minister Groeneveld recently approved our new business plan. I think it’s time for new leadership. The person who is to become the new Chair should expect to be Chair for an extended period of time. I think that calls for younger hands to lift the load.”

Clark says he looks back over his three years as Chair with great satisfaction.

“I think we’ve exceeded my expectations. The large bulk of the projects we’ve funded centre around increasing community capacity in rural Alberta. That will have a long term positive impact.”

A sub-committee of board members is now overseeing the search for Mr. Keyko’s replacement (<http://www.daviespark.com/careers/show.php?Key=902>) and hope to have the successful candidate in place in March 2010. Mr. Clark will be succeeded as Chair by current Vice-Chair Brad Ferguson on an interim basis until board elections are held during the 2010 RADF annual general meeting in September 2010.