

MEDIA RELEASE

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The Mustard Seed Welcomes James Gardiner as the New CEO

EDMONTON, AB – The Mustard Seed (TMS) has selected James Gardiner to be their next Chief Executive Officer. After leading The Mustard Seed with faith and vision for the past nine years, Stephen Wile, the current CEO, announced he is retiring in February 2024.

Following a rigorous and equitable search process with many qualified candidates, James was selected by the Search Committee as the best fit for The Mustard Seed. The Search Committee was comprised of representatives from TMS’s boards and was managed by the search firm Crawford Connect.

James worked in commercial banking for 30 years in progressively senior leadership positions, culminating as a Regional Vice President of Commercial Banking in Southern Alberta and then Head of Business Development for Western Canada for a major Canadian bank. James served on TMS’ Foundation Board for two years prior to transitioning to become TMS’s Chief Impact Officer in January 2023. In addition, James has also been filling an interim vacancy as acting Chief Development Officer for the past 6-months.

“The Mustard Seed is a special place where our volunteers, donors and government partners come together with our dedicated staff to show helpful compassion to the many lives we touch every day. At The Seed, we say, “Hope grows here.” I am excited and deeply honoured to be offered the opportunity to lead this wonderful Christian organization, bringing hope to our most vulnerable fellow citizens,” says James.

In his current role as Chief Impact Officer, James is responsible for overseeing and setting strategic direction for volunteer services, community engagement and employment, community impact centres, spiritual engagement and chaplaincy, and program measurement and strategy. As interim Chief Development Officer, James is also responsible for the strategy and execution of TMS’s fundraising teams. Reporting directly to the current CEO, James has had the opportunity to learn about the organization and connect with key stakeholders. The Mustard Seed’s [vision](#) and [mission](#) for the future remains the same, as James anticipates his new role as CEO of The Mustard Seed on March 1, 2024

About The Mustard Seed:

The Mustard Seed is a Christian non-profit organization that has been caring for individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty since 1984. Operating in five cities across Alberta and British Columbia, The Mustard Seed is a supportive haven where people can have their physical, mental, and spiritual needs met and grow toward greater health and independence. TheSeed.ca

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