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County CAO Dewing to Depart as Council Seeks New Leadership Approach

Picton ON – At a special Council meeting today, Prince Edward County Council and Chief Administrative Officer, Merlin J. Dewing, came to an agreement that will result in Dewing’s immediate departure from the role of CAO.

Council agrees with Dewing that his leadership approach no longer aligns with the vision the current Council has for the County of Prince Edward. As a result, Council elected to end Dewing’s term as CAO, in accordance with the early termination clause of his contract.

“We are grateful for the contributions Dewing has made during his term as CAO. His assertive guidance led the County through many difficult but necessary changes” says Mayor Robert Quaiff. “We have reached a decision that Dewing’s leadership style no longer aligns with Council’s preferred corporate administration approach. In order for Council to maintain focus on our goals and priorities, we have come to a mutual agreement that Dewing’s term as CAO should conclude.”

Council has appointed James Hepburn, Director of Finance, as Acting CAO, allowing Municipal operations and projects to move forward while Council determines their preferred approach to fill the CAO position.

Arrangements for interim administrative leadership were made through the County’s Acting CAO program, an initiative spearheaded by Dewing. During his 3½ years as CAO, Dewing led the Municipality through a substantial service delivery review and corporate realignment process, streamlining Municipal departments and realizing annual savings upwards of \$1.1 million in wages and benefits. Dedicated to enhancing customer service at the County, Dewing was committed to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of all County practices and procedures. He also invested significantly in employee development and recognition, initiating the Municipality’s award-winning Career Development Program with the goal of improving employee attraction and retention.

County Council remains committed to working with one another and County staff as they move forward with the County’s strategic plan, and their priorities as outlined in early 2015.

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For more information, contact Mayor Robert Quaiff at 613.476.2148 x 230.