

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Natural Step Canada appoints David Hughes as President & CEO

OTTAWA/TORONTO — The Board of Directors of The Natural Step Canada (TNS Canada) is excited to announce the appointment of David Hughes as their new President & CEO, effective June 15, 2016. David is highly regarded as a strategic leader with a strong track record of scaling the impact of some of Canada's leading charities.

Hughes served as President & CEO of both Habitat for Humanity Canada and Pathways to Education Canada during periods of unprecedented growth and transformation. Prior to that he held senior positions in the SOS Children's Villages International during 10 years of postings to Africa, Asia, Europe and the USA. More recently he has been the Sr. VP Strategic Partnerships & Branding for YMCA Canada. He also holds an economics degree from the University of Western Ontario and a postgraduate degree in social policy and non-profit management from the London School of Economics (LSE).

Hughes will be succeeding Chad Park who has been with TNS Canada for 14 years and led the organization to new heights as its Executive Director over the past five years. Park has become well-known as one of Canada's most articulate and passionate champions of sustainability-driven innovation and collaboration. Park recently announced his intentions to step down from the top executive role to concentrate 100 percent of his efforts on TNS Canada's ground-breaking Alberta Energy Futures Lab and its other Sustainability Transition Labs. Park will take on the newly created role of Chief Innovation Officer, based in Edmonton, Alberta.

"We are extremely fortunate to have David bring his unique leadership skills to our organization while retaining Chad's subject matter expertise, national networks, and institutional knowledge" said Peter Ladner, Chair of the Board of Directors. Last month the organization also hired Joanne Sevigny – formerly the Chief Operating Officer of the Ottawa Hospital Foundation - as its new Senior Director of Operations.

"This reorganization signals an important and exciting move at TNS Canada. It provides the critical capacity to support an increasing number of collaborative initiatives between governments, corporations and community groups. Across whole systems we need to find new ways of working together if Canada is going to position itself for global leadership in the transition to a low-carbon economy" said Barbara Turley-McIntyre, Vice President, Sustainability & Citizenship, The Co-operators. Barbara serves on the TNS Board of Directors. The Co-operators is a corporate partner of IMPACT! National Youth Sustainability Leadership Program and the Natural Capital Lab.

Upon accepting his new role Hughes said "I have grown increasingly concerned about the health of our planet and the incalculable impact this will have on lives around the world, including my own children. This has grown from an intellectual and professional interest to something much more personal. It has compelled me to move from serving on the sidelines to putting all I can into scaling the impact of this outstanding network that is tackling what may be the single most important issue defining our times."

About The Natural Step Canada

The Natural Step Canada is an Ottawa-based charitable organization driven by its mission to accelerate the transition to a sustainable society in which individuals, communities, businesses and institutions thrive within nature's limits. By providing thought leadership and a range of programs and services this social enterprise supports high-stakes, high-impact, multi-stakeholder collaborations that are creating new programs, policies and business ventures to lead the way towards a more sustainable society and low-carbon economy. Most notably, the organization's Sustainable Transition Labs – such as the Energy Futures Lab, the Natural Capital Lab, and a soon-to-be-launched Circular Economy Innovation Lab – are bringing a wide range of partners together to address the complex and interconnected social, environmental, and economic challenges facing our society.

The organization is part of a global network that spans 12 countries. The Natural Step is at the forefront of the sustainability movement and has been since it was founded in 1989 when it became a leading source of science and evidence-based frameworks and tools for sustainability. It has successfully guided the work of many of the world's scientists, policy makers, business leaders and practitioners working in the field of sustainability.

The Natural Step's approach has been utilized by hundreds of organizations worldwide such as Nike, Interface, IKEA, The Co-operators, the Landmark Group of Builders, Starbucks, countless universities, and many municipalities in Canada and around the world including the Resort Municipality of Whistler and the Town of Canmore, the Cities of Edmonton and Ottawa, and international municipalities such as Dublin, Ireland and dozens of municipalities in Sweden.

Leading supporters of The Natural Step Canada and its programs include the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, the Suncor Energy Foundation, The Co-operators, TD Bank, CPA Canada, Alberta Real Estate Foundation, IKEA Canada, Ontario Trillium Foundation, ATB Financial, the Government of Alberta, the Government of Ontario, and others.

For additional information visit:

www.naturalstep.ca

www.energyfutureslab.com

Media information:

Please contact Delyse Sylvester
Senior Director, Strategic Communications

E: dsylvester@naturalstep.ca

T: 250-551-0570