

## **Economic development organization CESO acquires CIRDI, a centre of expertise on natural resource governance**

Acquisition will enhance development impacts by capitalizing on project synergies and accelerate plans into broader public sector strengthening

**Toronto, March 9, 2021** -- CESO (Canadian Executive Service Organization) has acquired CIRDI (Canadian International Resources and Development Institute) from the University of British Columbia (UBC) on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The acquisition enhances and deepens CESO's focus and expertise in public sector strengthening by capitalizing on synergies between CESO and CIRDI.

With their respective focus and expertise in public sector strengthening and governance, particularly concentrated in natural resource management, the acquisition is a natural step in the development of the two organizations. As a larger, integrated team, the acquisition will also further improve gender equality and women's economic empowerment in support of Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP).

CESO's model of sharing Canadian expertise to build capacity in economic development aligns well with CIRDI's focus on applied research and technical assistance in support of sustainability outcomes. The acquisition will build on the solid foundation established during CIRDI's incubation at UBC and with its founding university partners, to a delivery model with a pragmatic approach, supported by CESO's expertise as a program delivery and outreach agent.

"CESO's expertise in public sector strengthening combined with CIRDI's successful model of bridging applied research and development needs to strengthen natural resources governance will enable a rapid scaling of proven results", says Wendy Harris, President and CEO of CESO.

CESO and CIRDI have been working together successfully in Ethiopia for several years on the SUMM project (Supporting the Ministry of Mines in Ethiopia), a five-year, \$15 million project funded by Global Affairs Canada. The project's ultimate objectives are to improve resource governance and long-term management of a sustainable mining sector for the benefit of all Ethiopians.

This acquisition will solidify CESO's place at the forefront of innovative public sector strengthening, bridging the gap between applied research and sustainable development, and accelerating its ability to scale its public sector strengthening.

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### **About CESO**

With its focus on public sector strengthening and private sector development, CESO, a not-for-profit organization since 1967, empowers people, businesses, communities and institutions to drive economic development and improve lives in Canada and around the world by sharing the right expertise and experience. CESO enhances governance and drives economic growth by building the capacity to engage, innovate and prosper, and by fostering locally-driven, sustainable solutions that are equitable, inclusive and environmentally responsible. With experience in over 120 countries worldwide, CESO currently works in more than 25 countries around the world and has 30 years of experience working in Ethiopia. [www.ceso-saco.com](http://www.ceso-saco.com)

### **About CIRDI**

CIRDI is a centre of expertise on natural resource governance focussed on exchanging knowledge and building skills to enable leading practice natural resource governance in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. CIRDI was created with funding from Global Affairs Canada (GAC) under a partnership between UBC, Simon Fraser University (SFU) and Polytechnique Montreal (EPM). They have completed projects in 22 countries with more than 200 partners.

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