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Vancouver Development Planning Consultancy Brook + Associates Appoints Gary Pooni as President

Founder and Partner Chuck Brook Continues to Provide Strategic Planning Counsel to Developers in Vancouver and Across British Columbia



Gary Pooni, President, Brook + Associates Inc., Vancouver, B.C.

VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA--(Marketwire - Oct. 21, 2008) - Brook + Associates Inc., a leading development planning consultancy in Canada, is pleased to announce the appointment of Gary Pooni as the firm's president on the eve of Brook's 20th anniversary. Pooni will be responsible for driving the firm's growth and managing major client projects throughout British Columbia while founder Chuck Brook will continue to provide strategic and political counsel to clients in Vancouver and across British Columbia.

"Gary is a skilled negotiator and absolutely steadfast in his ability to find solutions to complex land development projects," said Chuck Brook, founder and partner of Brook + Associates. "Having started the firm in 1988, I've seen our business expand and evolve today to include every type of land use imaginable--industrial, commercial and residential. I am extremely confident that Gary will successfully lead our firm and our clients into the next 20 years and beyond."

Since Pooni's arrival to Brook in 2004, he has managed more than 50 major land development projects across B.C. helping to re-shape neighbourhoods and cities as well as the region. Additionally, he has been the driving force behind the firm's growth and has helped expanded its expertise to 19 other municipalities--spanning Vancouver Island, the Sea-to-Sky Corridor, and the Fraser Valley. Pooni is a partner in the firm along with founder Chuck Brook and Laurie Schmidt.

"Brook has been a huge asset to the Beedie Group on numerous projects, and they continue to be a critical player in the development approval process for our biggest undertaking to date--Fraser Mills," said Ryan Beedie, president of the Beedie Group. "Gary helped us attain Official Community Plan approval last year for the Village at Fraser Mills, one of the largest residential, commercial and industrial projects currently underway in the region, and he is critical to our ongoing success."

Pooni joined Brook in 2004 and since then has been involved in numerous major client projects. Some of the largest ones include: the Beedie Group's Village at Fraser Mills in Coquitlam as well as the Queensborough Industrial Master Plan between Beedie and Anthem Properties in New Westminster; Aragon Properties' Port Royal, Wesgroup's development of the former Labatt Brewery; Townline Homes' Thunderbird Creek Neighbourhood and Pridham Development's Waterfront landing in Squamish; First Capital Realty, Mitrunen Development Corp. and VanCity's Jericho Master Plan in Langley; Boardwalk Gaming & Entertainment's Newton redevelopment in Surrey; the District of Maple Ridge's Silver Valley lands; and the City of Port Coquitlam's City Works Site.

"As Canada's leading owner, developer and operator of neighbourhood and community shopping centres, we have high-expectations of our team members," said Michael Lowe, managing director of First Capital Realty B.C. "Brook has been providing first-class development planning services to us for sites in Richmond, Langley and Abbotsford, and I can always count on Gary for his quality of thinking and for ensuring our developments move forward."

Kyle Shury, director of land and commercial development for The Townline Group of Companies, added, "Brook has been an integral part of our team for the last four years. Gary's community connections, urban planning background, and his facilitation skills have been critical to our residential development in Squamish."

Pooni, a New Westminster native, is an active member of the local community and serves as a director in the B.C. based Indo-Canadian Friendship Society (ICFS) to ensure people in Punjab, India (his family's native land) have access to clean water and infrastructure. To date, the ICFS has undertaken approximately \$1 million of work, in 10 village improvement projects. Over the last seven years, this initiative has changed the lives of thousands of people in India. The village projects have been toured by the President of India and lauded by all levels of government in India as a model for rural infrastructure development.

Prior to joining Brook, Pooni was a senior planner at the Vancouver Port Authority and held development planning positions at Brown and Associates Planning Group in Calgary as well as with the City of Calgary. He is a member of the Canadian Institute of Planners, Planning Institute of British Columbia as well as a member of the Urban Development Institute (UDI) where he serves as chair of the UDI Industrial Committee and the UDI New Westminster Committees. Pooni holds a Bachelors degree in Geography from Simon Fraser University and a Masters degree in Environmental Design from the University of Calgary.

About Brook

Brook + Associates Inc. is a leading development planning consultancy based in Vancouver, B.C. Founded on November 1, 1988, the firm was established by Chuck Brook in response to challenges faced by applicants undertaking the development approvals process at the City of Vancouver. Today, Brook has grown into one of the largest and most experienced development planning consultancies in Canada servicing the Lower Mainland and municipalities across the province. Brook's team of skilled planners and professionals provide a wide range of development planning services including strategic, political and communications counsel, development permit approvals, rezoning and subdivision applications, board of variance appeals, land use planning, official community plan amendments, requests for proposals, feasibility analysis, public consultation, planning studies, and density transfers. For more information, visit www.brookdev.com.

Editors Note: Photos available upon request.

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