



## SAULT STE. MARIE BRIDGE AUTHORITY

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

MICHELINE DUBÉ, CHAIR  
NATALIE KINLOCH, MEMBER  
ANTHONY PICKETT, MEMBER  
ANDRÉ GIRARD, MEMBER

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

THOMAS BUCKINGHAM SR., VICE CHAIR  
LINDA HOATH, MEMBER  
SCOTT SHACKLETON, MEMBER  
NICHOLAS WHITE, MEMBER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017**

**CONTACT:**

**Peter Petainen, International Bridge Administration, 906-635-5255, ext. 137, or**

**Dan Weingarten, MDOT Office of Communications, 906-250-4809**

## **International Bridge board welcomes new member**

**Fast facts:**

- **The Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority (SSMBA) board of directors welcomed new Canadian member André Girard at its meeting today.**
- **The board consists of eight members, four Michigan members appointed by Gov. Snyder and four Canadian members.**
- **With Girard's appointment, all positions on the board are filled.**

**May 18, 2017** -- At today's Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority (SSMBA) board meeting, the bi-national body that supervises operations of the International Bridge welcomed a new member, André Girard.

Girard was appointed to the board on May 3 by the Federal Bridge Corp. Ltd. (FBCL), the governmental owner of the Canadian bridge assets, for a three-year term. The SSMBA board consists of eight members, four Michigan members appointed by Gov. Snyder and four Canadian members appointed by the FBCL, located in Ottawa, Ontario.

"As chair, I am pleased to welcome André to the Board of the Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority," said SSMBA Chairwoman Micheline Dubé. "I believe that his diverse experience will further enhance the excellent working relationship we have developed with MDOT over the years."

Girard has been in charge of communications for FBCL since May 2000. With nearly 40 years of experience in communications, André has worked with a number of high-profile organizations, including the Royal Canadian Mint, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., management of the press room for the Public Enquiry on the Deployment of Canadian Forces in Somalia, and the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions. He has also worked as a soundman in the film business, was editor-in-chief of an Inuit magazine in Kuuujuaq in northern

Québec, and has been an active participant in public consultations on behalf of engineering firms, Hydro-Québec and native communities in northern Quebec.

"I am honored and delighted to have the opportunity to serve as an active participant of the board," Girard said. "I'm committed to assisting the board achieve its mandate and contribute to the successful operation of the Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge."

Girard assumes the board position left vacant by Glenn Hewus of Ottawa, Ontario, who retired from FBCL in 2016. With the new appointment, the board is now at its full complement.

The operation and maintenance of the International Bridge is totally self-funded, primarily through bridge tolls. It is not subsidized by any state, provincial or federal government entity. For more information on the International Bridge, please visit [www.saultbridge.com](http://www.saultbridge.com) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/saultbridge](http://www.twitter.com/saultbridge).

###

**Sault Ste. Marie International Bridge:  
Bridging Our Past, Connecting Our Future**



**Caption: The binational Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority welcomed new Canadian board member André Girard at its meeting today.**

**A larger version of the photo is available for download:**

- [Andre Girard.jpg](#)