

## **R.J. McCarthy, Canada's leading school uniform manufacturer and retailer, announces the election of Mr. John Watts to its Board of Directors to help drive its new mission and strategy**

*School Uniform retailer aims to become a Canadian leader in sustainability*

**Toronto, ON (May 12, 2009)** – McCarthy's is proud to announce the election of Mr. John Watts to its Board of Directors. John will play a pivotal role in assisting the company with its future growth strategy as well its goal to become the clear industry leader in Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability.

John has 36 years of experience as an educator and leader in Ontario Catholic and Public schools. His career in education began in 1970 at Pickering High School. In 1987, with six years experience as a Vice-Principal and Principal of several schools, John became Superintendent of Schools for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. John has since acted as Superintendent of Planning/Transportation, Superintendent of Employee Relations, and Associate Director of Education and Instructional Services for the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. In addition to his career as an administrator, John served as Vice President and President of the Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers Association and was a member of the Board of Directors for the Council of Religious Education for the Archdiocese of Toronto. He is also a member of the University of St. Michaels College Advisory Committee for Continuing Education Program. Throughout his life, John has contributed greatly to his community through his involvement with his local Parish and several other volunteering activities. John is a recipient of the B.E. Nelligan Award of Merit for outstanding contribution to Catholic Education in Ontario.

"We are privileged and honoured to have John join our company – his insight and vast experience in education will assist us tremendously in continuing to further develop our existing partnerships as well as to forge new partnerships with new schools and new school Boards", said Martin McCarthy, McCarthy's long serving President and current Vice Chair. "John's keen understanding of students and students' needs will allow us to continue to broaden our offerings. Additionally, given the importance of sustainability, and social responsibility, John's keen understanding of student life will help us achieve our goal of becoming the true industry leader on this front"

"I am extremely delighted to have been elected to the Board" said John Watts. "I have a very high regard for the McCarthy family, and the company, and look forward to playing a role in shaping the future of the organization. I have been impressed by the company's current position in terms of ethical manufacturing and sustainability policies but frankly am truly excited at the company's willingness to begin reexamining everything it is doing to ensure we are hitting the highest standards for social responsibility across the board. It will take time to reach our new goals as an organization but we will get there".

John will assist in providing oversight at the Board level for all of the company's activities but will especially be involved in reviewing and contributing to the company's aspirations to become a Canadian leader in social responsibility.

**About McCarthy's.** Established in 1956 by Robert J. McCarthy, McCarthy's is Canada's leading retailer of School Uniforms. McCarthy's has a network of 15 stores across Canada, a large base of loyal customers, and serves the uniform needs of approximately 400 schools across the country. Over its proud 53 year history, McCarthy's has earned a reputation for offering its school partners and customers the widest selection of high quality School Uniforms along with the most convenient shopping options. McCarthy's is committed to ensuring that – in addition to unsurpassed quality – Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability become the new foundation of its exciting new mission and strategy.