In the courtyard this summer
A spectacular transformation
The new trend: the pavillon

While waiting to travel
A dream sanctuary in the Maldives
Summer delights in Québec

YVES DESJARDINS-SICILIANO
PRESIDENT AND CEO
In May 2020, Yves Desjardins-Siciliano became President and CEO of Siemens Mobility Canada. A year later, due to the pandemic, he still has not met most of his employees in person. Despite this constraint, in May 2021, he acquired Railterm, a railway infrastructure maintenance company that operates mainly in Quebec and Ontario. With this first acquisition, this Quebecer intends to make Siemens Mobility Canada a leader in the modernization of the Canadian public transit system.

He explains his motivation by the urgency of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. “In Quebec, nearly 25% of GHGs are produced by our cars and light trucks. To change this, we must set up electrified public transportation that is accessible, affordable and above all, frequent. The development of public transportation networks is a solution to the challenges we face in our society, and our country is ripe to modernize its infrastructures. At Siemens Mobility, we have innovative solutions and technologies to become part of the solution,” he notes.

Seeing Big

Passionate, tenacious and ambitious. Three adjectives that come up often to describe Yves Desjardins-Siciliano. His friends and colleagues say he is caring and always in solution mode. “I like challenges, and the bigger they are, the more they interest me. Developing our company’s footprint in Canada is a challenge that I am passionate about. However, it would be impossible if I was alone in this! Here, I can count on a great team, a team that is growing because we have plenty of projects! At Siemens, we want to make a difference and provide cities in Quebec and across Canada with the best technologies and the best know-how to propel public transit towards the best of what’s being made worldwide.”

A CEO from Quebec and an Anchor in Quebec

Originally from Montreal, Mr. Desjardins-Siciliano is a lawyer by training. A born communicator, he has seen his career progress rapidly with large companies such as Bell Mobility and IBM, in addition to having run a private consulting firm. Since 2017, he has been Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Régiment de Maisonneuve, an honorary title he accepted to represent members and reservists of the Canadian Armed Forces in civil society.

Concerned about equity, diversity and inclusion, Mr. Desjardins-Siciliano received a La Gouvernance au Féminin award recognizing his exceptional contribution to the advancement of women in governance roles. The one his employees simply call “Yves” also has a long track record in the public sector. In addition to various executive functions, including that of President and CEO he held at VIA Rail, he was chief of staff to a federal Minister of Labor and Transport. While throughout his career he has traveled between the cities of Montreal and Toronto, Mr. Desjardins-Siciliano has chosen to remain in Montreal to take up his position as CEO of Siemens Mobility Canada.

The Avenio is a modern, comfortable, reliable and barrier-free tram that perfectly fulfills the demands of some of the world’s greatest cities.

Minneapolis – St. Paul Metro Transit. Siemens Mobility connects the Twin Cities all year round with its customizable S70 light rail vehicle.

AT THE HEAD OF SIEMENS MOBILITY CANADA

A Quebecer wants to propel our public transport into the future
Mr. Desjardins-Siciliano admits that he has always had a special attachment to Quebec, a city of exceptional beauty. «I love Quebec City and come here often for business or pleasure. When I was chief of staff to a federal minister, I helped improve the infrastructure of the Quebec City Airport, which wanted to accommodate more international flights». In recent weeks, the CEO of Siemens Mobility in Canada has taken part in a few activities in Quebec: «I had the pleasure of being the honorary president of an event of the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Quebec and I also had the opportunity to speak to students at Laval University. In addition, I make sure to keep in touch with the Quebec business community, thus allowing me to be on the lookout for opportunities and for what is happening on the ground.»

A UNIQUE AND USER-ORIENTED EXPERTISE
The future of mobility in high density urban areas lies in public transit. «Young people are making the choice to get a driver’s license later in life than before. Some just don’t want to drive. Cities are increasingly dense and we waste precious time in our cars, in addition to increasing the risks to our safety and greenhouse gas emissions. The solution of the future lies in public transit; notwithstanding the effects of the pandemic.» But beware, the customer experience must be constantly evolving. «You have to know how to adapt your offer to attract users: it is the basis of a healthy public transport system. Siemens has a unique expertise in terms of the digitalization of transport services and solutions», he explains with passion.

A PARTNER FOR THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY
For the leader, it is clear that Siemens Mobility must be part of the collective effort for the economic recovery of Canada. «In Quebec, Siemens Mobility and its affiliates employ more than 1,200 people. We have the rolling stock and the capacity to not only execute complex infrastructure projects, but also to finance them. We have efficient electrification, signaling, rail communication and road control systems to make urban intersections more efficient and safer. And now, with the acquisition of RailTerm, we can offer maintenance of the entire rail infrastructure. This is a unique offer in the market and it originates here in Quebec. That’s why we’re committed to working with governments and their transportation agencies to help develop transit systems and continue to create jobs here.»

Mr. Desjardins-Siciliano explains that Canadians expect major infrastructure projects to create local jobs. «But they also expect suppliers to bring innovation, to improve the experience for passengers, to provide safer and more sustainable transportation solutions. At Siemens Mobility, we have great investment ambitions in Quebec and across Canada.» Mr. Desjardins-Siciliano concludes. Clearly, the pandemic will not have slowed down this enthusiast of transformation and progress.

The truth is, a Quebec symbol is now a foreign company just like Siemens and all the other players in the rail industry. Post-pandemic economic recovery requires governments to maximize local job creation. By their nature, public transit infrastructure projects create local engineering and construction jobs. Moreover, the engineering and construction component often represents more than 75% of project costs. When it comes to rolling stock and rail systems, however, these technologies and their components are developed all over the world. To modernize our transportation systems while respecting taxpayers, we must demand the use of the best technologies, at the best price, under the best contractual conditions, regardless of their origin. In doing so, on the one hand, the best global knowledge is imported to train local technical staff and advance their know-how. On the other hand, we introduce our local suppliers and subcontractors to the international distribution network of Siemens Mobility. That said, at Siemens Mobility, we have great investment ambitions in Quebec and across Canada. Our acquisition of RailTerm is just the beginning. As for the perceptions of favoritism for certain competitors, we are confident that the selection process for these large projects and their assessors are rigorous, objective and impartial, and that we are offering the best products with the best price-quality ratio for taxpayers and users. We are confident that the best proposition will win the privilege of serving our communities.

To find out more: siemens.ca/mobility