



Michael Durlley, CEO of Perpetual Security Corp, left., and Gene Fowler, right, president of Fatkat Animation Studios, at attend a reception the Hilton on Sunday afternoon for 15 award winners for an entrepreneurship contest.

Note: This story appeared in both the Telegraph-Journal and the Times & Transcript.

**'We need the next K.C. Irving or Wallace McCain,' says beer boss
Elite Group of N.B.'s best and brightest gather for bootcamp**

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SAINT JOHN - They are said to be the next generation of corporate leaders in New Brunswick.

They employ between a handful and 500 people, and their companies are quickly expanding within the province and across the globe.

These 15 business executives were tapped Sunday as the most promising up-and-coming entrepreneurs in New Brunswick.

The G. Wallace F. McCain Institute, a branch of the University of New Brunswick, selected the executives to participate in a year-long business boot camp.

At the secluded Square Lake Resort in Alma, this elite group of the province's best and brightest will gather for two days every month beginning in July to learn the success stories of business gurus, like candy maker David Ganong and Mariner Partners chairman Gerry Pond.

The boot camp, which will also see high-level executives offer advice on all things involved with business growth, is designed to groom the new leaders of New Brunswick's private sector.

"We need more people with great ideas to succeed in New Brunswick," Derek Oland, chairman and chief executive of Moosehead Breweries, said when announcing the names on the McCain Institute's A-list.

"We need the next K.C. Irving or Wallace McCain. We need more economic activity on a global scale that will employ New Brunswickers."

Sunday's announcement came during the official launch of the New Brunswick Securities Commission's annual Fullsail venture capital conference in Saint John.

Policy makers, investors and other business leaders from across the province gathered in the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre for a reception and to hear an evening key note address from Sean Wise, online host of CBC's Dragon's Den reality television program.

The conference delegates will today debate and ultimately commit to carry out a series of recommendations the commission made in a recent discussion paper on developing entrepreneurship and capital markets in the province.

And on Sunday, 15 entrepreneurs made their own commitment to do their part.

"I came from nothing, and I'm shocked to be part of this," Michael Durley, chief executive of Fredericton-based Perpetual Security, said Sunday afternoon following a boot camp introductory session.

"To be mentored by these high-level business people who are the backbone of the New Brunswick economy, to be helped expand and create new opportunities for local businesses, is an incredible opportunity."

Durley employs body guards to protect political and corporate elite. For the past 12 years, he has run a team of private investigators, security officers and patrol officers in New Brunswick.

And now he's expanding.

The native of Saint John is in the middle of acquiring a Nova Scotia security firm, giving him access to the lucrative market in Halifax. He also recently launched a new firm he plans to use to help immigrants come to New Brunswick and open other firms compatible to his.

Durley, the head of three security companies based in the provincial capital, wants to expand his businesses across Canada in a year and around the globe in six.

It was for that level of ambition, and a commitment to develop a successful business headquartered in New Brunswick, that had Durley tapped as one McCain's top 15.

"We need more people in New Brunswick, and people are going to come because there are more jobs; and more jobs are going to be created by entrepreneurs who are dedicated to remaining in New Brunswick," said Nancy Mathis, executive director of the McCain Institute.

"We need entrepreneurs who are ready to push to the next level and expand their business, live their dream and make that happen."