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Keynote **SPEAKER**

JIM HOPSON has been involved with Saskatchewan football for much of his life. He played high school football for Thom Collegiate in Regina and then joined the Regina Rams. He graduated from the University of Regina with a Degree in Education and went on to receive a master's degree from the University of Oregon. Hopson began his professional football career in 1973, joining the Saskatchewan Roughrider Football Club. He became a starter on the Riders' offensive line in 1974 and had the opportunity to play with many Rider greats, including Ron Lancaster and George Reed.

Following the 1976 Canadian Football League (CFL) season, Hopson retired to focus on his teaching career. He completed his M.Ed. while a principal, and he retired as Director of Education for the Qu'Appelle Valley School Division at the end of 2004.

In 2005, he became the Roughriders' first president and CEO, a position he held until his retirement in 2015. Under his guidance, the Riders made four Grey Cup appearances and won the 2007 and 2013 Grey Cups. His leadership helped turn the Riders into one of the CFL's model franchises and achieve record profits, while continuing their commitment to Saskatchewan's communities.

In 2014, Hopson was awarded the Hugh Campbell Distinguished Leadership Award for his contributions to the CFL, the game of football and Canada's sporting culture. In 2015, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Regina's Alumni Association. He has also received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal.

Hopson currently sits on and chairs several board of directors. In 2016, he served on

the Canada Post Review Task Force at the request of the federal government. He is in demand as a keynote speaker presenting on topics such as leadership, team building, managing change and building excellence. He also speaks at various fundraisers and sports dinners. His book, *Running the Riders*, is available at local bookstores and all Saskatchewan Roughriders store locations.



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