

**Economic Development Division** 203 S. Farwell St. Eau Claire, WI 54701 www.EauClaireDevelopment.com

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFF ACHIEVES PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

EAU CLAIRE, WI - On May 4, 2018, Ray French, Business Assistance Specialist with the City of Eau Claire's Economic Development Division received certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP) from the National Development Council (NDC).

EDFP Certification is a professional credential given to individuals who successfully complete NDC's intensive economic development finance training series. The training provides individuals working in the field of economic development with instruction in business credit analysis, real estate financing, loan packaging, deal structuring and negotiating and the creation and implementation of development programs.

Each of the four EDFP Certification Program courses are five days in length and concludes with an exam. Upon successful completion of all four courses, the candidate is awarded EDFP Certification.

Ray French joined the City of Eau Claire in May, 2016 with 4 years' experience in local government. In the Economic Development Division he facilitates the City's loan programs and meets with prospective and current businesses for expansion and recruitment opportunities. With Downtown Eau Claire, Inc. he supports business programs like the Jump-Start Downtown Business Competition and Downtown Enhancement Grants.

NDC is headquartered in New York City with offices in Washington, DC, Seattle, WA, Cleveland, OH and Edgewood, KY. For more information about NDC, please visit: www.ndconline.org/.

## **About the Economic Development Division:**

As a division of the City of Eau Claire, our mission is to grow local businesses, facilitate expansions, and recruit outside businesses to locate in Eau Claire in order to increase quality of living, add well-paying jobs and grow the tax base.

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