

# **Canadian Property Robust Despite Falling Oil Prices**

# Alberta office coping with shrinking economy

**Toronto – May 4, 2016** - MSCI Inc. (NYSE: MSCI), a leading provider of investment decision support tools worldwide, including indexes, portfolio risk and performance analytics and ESG research, has recorded 7.7% total return in Canadian direct real estate investment in the 12-month period ending March 31, 2016 as indicated in **REALpac/IPD Canada Quarterly Property Index**.

The total return of 7.7% is an increase from 6.8% recorded in the corresponding period ending in March 2015. The growth in the property market despite challenges in certain geographies and segments from falling oil prices reflects a stable real estate market in Canada.

The most significant change in the index during the period occurred in office space total return in Ontario, which rose to 12.8% from 7.4%; and in Alberta where it fell to -3.5% from 5.5% in the corresponding period last year. Similarly, capital values in Alberta office properties decreased by 8.7% in the period, while the growth rate in the same segment in Ontario accelerated to 7.2% from 1.7%.

Alberta, home to Canada's petroleum industry, has coped with significantly lowered oil and gas prices, which caused its economy to contract in 2015.

Income across segments in Alberta, however, remained largely stable: office properties improved slightly to 5.6% from 5.5%; and retail declined marginally to 4.6% from 4.9% during the period.

**Simon Fairchild, Executive Director, MSCI, commented**: "The direct real estate market in Canada has delivered stable returns in the period."

**Fairchild continued:** "The drop in oil prices made an impact in some areas and segment but the returns in the 12 months ending in March reflects the strong fundamentals in the Canadian property market.

The **REALpac / IPD Canada Quarterly Property Index** measures 2,472 institutional grade properties across Canada valued at \$137.1 billion CAD, as of March 31, 2016.

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Our line of products and services includes indexes, analytical models, data, real estate benchmarks and ESG research.

MSCI serves 97 of the top 100 largest asset managers, based upon P&I data as of December 2014 and MSCI client data as of June 2015.

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