

Mark Hladik

Mark Hladik is an accomplished executive in the hospitality industry with 27 years of experience. Over the last 23 he has worked his way through the ranks of Earls Restaurants Ltd, rising from part time dishwasher to his current role as Vice President of Operations. Earls is widely regarded as the gold standard in the premium casual dining sector in Canada. With 57 restaurants across Canada and 10 in the U.S., Earls is one of the largest privately held restaurant groups in Canada. The organization is known for its uniquely fun and personable take on hospitality, stunning restaurant design, innovative menus, world-class leadership and management training, and a highly engaged workforce of 6000 people.

Mark was raised in a middle class immigrant family and at an early age fell in love with the made-from-scratch approach his parents took to everything in the kitchen. He declared at six years old that he wanted to become a Chef and spent increasing amounts of time cooking with his parents as he grew. When it came time to get a job at 15, it was an easy decision to get into the restaurant business. The honeymoon was short lived however; as Mark quickly discovered that it can be a tough and dirty business. He worked at several different restaurants before making his final stop at Earls at the age of 19. The company was expanding into Winnipeg, and having previously been to an Earls in Vancouver, he knew he had to get a job there. He immediately fell in love with the company and the people he worked with and has forged a remarkable career ever since.

Mark was promoted very quickly through the kitchen as he displayed a strong foundation of skills as well as a natural leadership style that aligned closely with the company's values. He became a Chef at 21 and took over his first restaurant as a GM at 25. Mark developed a reputation for his entrepreneurial spirit and innovation and the restaurant he ran in suburban Winnipeg became the busiest in the company's history. That success resulted in Mark being promoted to Regional Director and he was tasked with bringing Earls to Ontario in 2007. That expansion was highly successful and helped Earls evolve from a regional chain to having a truly national presence.

Having spent his entire career with Earls at the front lines of expansion has given Mark a unique set of skills in dealing with all the trials of organizational growth. He has opened over 25 restaurants over that time. In his current role he is leading the expansion into the highly competitive U.S. market. In the short period of four years, Mark has led the company to dramatic sales results in seven new and challenging markets, allowing Earls to continue their ambitious expansion goals across North America.

In 2016 Mark was honoured as a Fellow of the Ontario Hospitality Institute in recognition of the impact his leadership at Earls has had on the hospitality industry in Ontario.