

Pierre Somers Biography

Pierre Somers is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Walter Group headquartered in Montreal, Canada, which is comprised of two main companies: Walter Surface Technologies, a leading provider of innovative solutions for the metal working industry, and Walter Financial, a prominent investment firm.

Over the course of almost 30 years as head of Walter Surface Technologies, Mr. Somers has continued developing the company founded by his father in 1952. He was the driver behind the company's expansion to international markets and Walter Surface Technologies now operates in nine countries across the Americas and Europe. He also innovated with the creation of the Bio-Circle division, which offers environmentally safe solutions for industrial cleaning applications through bioremediation. On the financial side of the Group's operations, he contributed to the establishment of Walter Financial as a credible investment firm within the financial community. More recently, Pierre Somers initiated the creation of Walter Capital Partners, a private equity firm dedicated to supporting small and medium-sized companies.

Before taking the lead at Walter Group, Mr. Somers held various positions within Walter Surface Technologies in Canada and the U.S., where he garnered in-depth knowledge of various sectors of the company, on his way to becoming Chairman & CEO. At the beginning of his career, he worked as a mechanical engineer at Metabo AG, in Germany.

Pierre Somers holds a B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering from Clarkson University, in Potsdam, NY, which he obtained in 1976. In 2005, he was appointed Alumni of the YPO/MBA program at the Harvard Business School, an institution he has been active with for over 20 years. He is fluent in English, French and German.

Mr. Somers is a strong supporter of education. He has been honorary president for numerous fundraising campaigns held by organizations such as Madeli-Aide and the ITHQ (Institut de tourisme et d'hôtellerie du Québec), from which he has received an honoris causa degree. Through Walter Surface Technologies, he supports the Walter J. Somers chair at HEC Montreal, where he sits on the steering committee. Mr. Somers is a founding member of the Business Families Foundation, and is a member of the Presidents Club of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, the World Presidents Organization and the CEO Organization.