

BUSINESS PEOPLE; Shift in Command Made At K Mart of Canada

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Donald A. Beaumont yesterday was appointed president and chief executive officer of K Mart Canada Ltd., a subsidiary of the K Mart Corporation, the third-largest American retailer. The appointment of the 56-year-old Mr. Beaumont, a Canadian, returns the subsidiary to the supervision of a Canadian for the first time since 1988.

Mr. Beaumont succeeds Keith R. Costine, 50, an American who has been with K Mart Canada since 1987, the last two years as its president and chief executive officer. Three times before Mr. Costine's appointment as the Canadian chief, K Mart named Canadians to supervise that subsidiary. Mr. Costine is being reassigned within the corporation. A K Mart spokeswoman, Jan Potter, said that the company traditionally reassigned its Canadian chiefs after several years.

The new appointee comes to K Mart Canada from Towers Department Stores, a Canadian department store chain, with which he was associated since 1977, most recently as executive vice president and chief operating officer. He was the Towers vice president of marketing before that. Before joining Towers, he was with T. Eaton Company Ltd., one of Canada's largest retailers, for 20 years.

Mr. Beaumont, who has a bachelor of arts degree from McMaster University, began his career at Eaton as an assistant store manager and advanced to the position of national department manager at the company's merchandise office.

Mr. Beaumont was not available for comment yesterday.

A K Mart employee since 1957, Mr. Costine was director of store operations for the K Mart Corporation at its Troy, Mich., headquarters before being assigned to the Canadian subsidiary in 1987 as a senior vice president. He became president in 1988.

Mr. Beaumont will report to Richard S. Miller, executive vice president for K Mart Stores. The company operated 122 K Mart discount stores in Canada at the end of its fiscal year on Jan. 31. Canadian sales that year totaled \$1.1 billion, which were essentially even with the previous year, company executives said.

K Mart, which had sales of \$32.06 billion in the recent fiscal year, operates more than 4,000 stores in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada.