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## François Giguère Career Change

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After spending more than 20 years in the National Hockey League with the Nordiques, Avalanche, Stars, and Bruins, François Giguère has completely changed his career. A chartered accountant by profession, he launched officially this month his financial advisor career with A&I Financial Services in Denver, Colorado, to help NHL players accomplish their financial goals by offering a detailed individual financial plan designed specifically for them.

This is a change Giguère decided to do after being a candidate to replace Pierre Gauthier as Canadiens general manager in 2012. He also also got an interview for the position of Hockey Canada President, vacated by Bob Nicholson.

Reached by telephone at his office of Denver, Giguère argues that his vast experience as a negotiator and director general may help coaches who have to negotiate their contracts.

"The relationship between a coach and director general is so important, and when I negotiate, I want to ensure that relationship remains intact. I am inspired by agent Don Baizley (now deceased) and how he worked when he negotiated the salary of Joe Sakic and Peter Forsberg. He made sure there would never be any confrontation and that the agreement would be a partnership."

## **Avoid Disasters**

In 2009, the magazine Sports Illustrated published an article about the financial problems in the community of professional athletes. According to the data, 78% of players declare bankruptcy or have severe financial difficulties two years after retirement. In the NBA, it's 60% of the players who encounter such problems five years after deciding to retire. Giguère believes that there is a great need for athletes to have an honest financial advisor and has the welfare of athletes at heart.

"The career of a hockey player is short, and it is imperative that early in their career professional athletes establish with their financial advisor a plan that will allow them to put money aside to meet financial objectives many years after their careers are over. I look at the case of Jack Johnson of the Blue Jackets, who declared bankruptcy this summer after leaving his parents to manage his money, and I do not want this to happen to another player. My 20 years' experience in the NHL with the players made sure that I respect these young men, and I want to be in their corner to help them prepare for life after hockey."

It obviously takes great courage to change professions as Giguère did. His experience with the Avalanche and other NHL teams means he knows the needs of the players and coaches. This is an advantage for him, and it is expected that he will achieve great success in his new profession.

*(translated from French)*