



Media Release

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New Executive Director at Our Kids Network says role feels like coming home

Halton Region, Ontario – Our Kids Network, a Halton-wide partnership of organizations serving children, youth, and families, has announced that Christine Hartley will be its new Executive Director, effective February 1, 2021.

Co-chair of the Our Kids Network (OKN) Champions Committee, Bridget Fewtrell, said Christine has “an ideal blend of professional talents and personal qualities” to contribute.

“Christine has extensive experience supporting children, youth, and families, leadership skills that make a real difference in workplaces and communities, and a constant drive to bring people together to collaborate. She is an excellent addition to a network designed to build partnerships and improve professionals’ capacity to help.”

Christine has had a front-row seat to OKN’s work over the years. Since the beginning, she has served on various OKN committees. Earlier in her career, she was immersed in Halton communities, building relationships in the area of community development.

“For me, taking on this role feels like coming home,” she said. “I am returning to my community development roots and to Halton. I was raised in Halton and spent 16 years working in the community here – I recognize and celebrate every nook and cranny of the region.”

In her most recent role as vice president of Clinical Services at ErinoakKids Centre for Treatment and Development, Christine supervised all clinical services and a broad range of supports for children and youth with physical and developmental disabilities. She holds an MA in Leadership from the University of Guelph.

“I have been a keen observer of the evolution of OKN,” Christine said. “I believe strongly that we are better together, which is of course the intent of the network – bringing diverse people together to maximize resources, support professionals, and improve outcomes for families. OKN is a wonderful connector and its research and resources are second to none. As we emerge from the difficult time of the pandemic, I believe there will be renewed focus on collaboration and OKN will welcome and cultivate new partnerships. I’m excited to see what more we can achieve.”

Outgoing OKN Executive Director Elena DiBattista will be working with Christine in January to assist in the transition. Elena led OKN for 10 years.

“Elena’s impact will be felt for years to come,” Bridget said. “We are truly grateful for her passion, dedication, vision, and leadership.”

Our Kids Network conducts and shares research and brings organizations, agencies, and professionals together to share knowledge, building the community's capacity to support children, youth, and families. Its vision is "all children and youth thrive!" For more information, visit ourkidsnetwork.ca.

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