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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Leadership Transition for Hamilton Community Foundation

(HAMILTON) - Hamilton Community Foundation Board Chair, Sandra Stephenson, announced today that Carolyn Milne, President & CEO will resign effective September 30, after 14 years at the organization's helm.

"Both the Foundation and the communities it serves will miss Carolyn's leadership and passion" said Ms. Stephenson, "though she freely credits her team, volunteers, partners and donors for the Foundation's many successes in improving the quality of life for many Hamiltonians. Carolyn believes that her leadership has been a privilege and that she is only one of an army of Hamilton leaders who are intent on making Hamilton the best place to raise a child."

Ms. Stephenson says that as Hamilton Community Foundation's President, Mrs. Milne has contributed enormously to its reputation as a pioneer and leader in the community foundation field.

"One of the most obvious and remarkable contributions has been the co-founding, with the City of Hamilton, of the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction as well as the Foundation's own poverty-reduction granting programs," says Ms. Stephenson. "But programs ranging from aboriginal stay-in-school initiatives, to civic inclusion, to anti-bullying initiatives in Hamilton's education system – and a host of others, also stemmed from the Foundation's initiative. At the same time, under Carolyn's leadership HCF's assets grew tenfold, and resulted in grantmaking and community investment in Hamilton increasing to \$6 million from less than \$500,000 annually during her tenure." She notes that the Foundation has begun the search for a new President & CEO, and that Ms. Milne's legacy and HCF's reputation would certainly entice strong candidates.

Carolyn Milne calls her time at HCF "an extraordinary honour and privilege," and says now is the right time for a leadership transition. "I am confident in my decision, as the Foundation enters a new and exciting phase in its evolution," she says. "With a renewed vision, mission, and strategic plan in place, as well as an engaged and committed Board of Directors, the Foundation is well positioned to deal with the challenges and, more importantly, the opportunities ahead."

Ms. Milne notes the exceptional support and leadership from the Foundation's board of directors, and the opportunity to work for an organization so committed to strengthening its community.

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“Specifically, I am grateful for the exceptional faith that each of HCF’s boards have shown as we developed the unique and innovative programs that have had an incredible impact on the community,” she says. “I have been blessed to work with a talented and dedicated staff that has seen the Foundation’s work capture the attention and recognition of our field. I especially recognize the extraordinary generosity and commitment of our donors – people from all walks of life whose gifts and advice have supported Hamilton Community Foundation’s transformation and its signature attribute: bold and innovative community leadership.”

Ms. Milne emphasized that over the next months it will be business as usual for the work of Foundation, while at the same time she works hard to support the Board and the staff with leadership transition and completion of a new business model. Post-Foundation life, she looks forward to pursuing her great interest in strategic leadership, professional development and supporting others in their leadership roles.

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Hamilton Community Foundation was founded in 1954. Through HCF, donors achieve their philanthropic goals by giving back to their community in ways that mean most to them. HCF also brings people together to convene solutions to Hamilton's most pressing challenges, such as poverty, youth and citizen engagement and environmental protection. HCF has total assets of approximately \$120 million and since it was founded, has made grants to our community totalling more than \$51 million. Last year, through the generosity of its donors, Hamilton Community Foundation made grants of approximately \$6.2 million to Hamilton organizations involved in health, social services, arts, environment, education and recreation.

For further information, please contact:

Sandra Stephenson

Board Chair, Hamilton Community Foundation

c/o Anne Lupkoski, Executive Assistant, a.lupkoski@hcf.on.ca

905-523-5600, ext. 226

Carolyn Milne

President & CEO

Hamilton Community Foundation

c.milne@hcf.on.ca

905-523-5600 x 224

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