



Mobility
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3670 Kempt Road, Halifax, NS B3K 4X8 ▪ tel 902 453 6000 ▪ fax 902 454 6121
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MEDIA RELEASE

July 26, 2017

Joanne Bernard named new CEO of Easter Seals Nova Scotia

Halifax, NS

Easter Seals Nova Scotia has announced that Joanne Bernard has been appointed as their new President and CEO. This appointment takes effect immediately.

Easter Seals Nova Scotia Board Chair Adriana Dolnyckyj would like to welcome Ms. Joanne Bernard as our new President and CEO. "We are thrilled to have Joanne join Easter Seals Nova Scotia. Her leadership and experience in government and the not-for profit sector positions us very well for our future growth and allows us to continue to positively impact the lives of Nova Scotians with disabilities and their families."

Ms. Bernard comes to the organization with over 15 years of both government and not for profit experience. Having most recently held the appointment of Nova Scotia's Minister of Community Services, Ms. Bernard is well suited to take on the challenges of her new position. Prior to serving in the Nova Scotia Legislature, Ms. Bernard established the Margeurite Centre in 2002 before becoming the Executive Director for Alice Housing in 2005. In 2013 she was elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly and appointed to the Executive Council of Nova Scotia, serving as Minister of Community Services, Housing Nova Scotia, Disabled Persons Commission and Advisory Council for the Status of Women.

Ms. Bernard has been recognized for her work in the non-profit field, having led Alice Housing to multiple Donner Awards. Professionally she has received the Peter F. Drucker award for Non Profit Management in Canada in 2011, the Holly House Award for her work on the issue of homelessness and in 2015 the Inspire Award for her Public Service.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Saint Vincent University and a Masters of Arts from Acadia University as well as a Certificate of Leadership from Saint Mary's University.

Reflecting on her new position, Ms. Bernard has said "I have been a huge fan of the work of Easter Seals Nova Scotia for many years. I am thrilled to be back in the non- profit sector leading this vital and innovative organization which helps so many Nova Scotians with differing abilities. It feels like home."

For over 85 years, Easter Seals Nova Scotia has been at the forefront of programs and services for Nova Scotians with disabilities. As a primary destination for those seeking information, support, mobility equipment, recreation program, and skill development opportunities we advocate for a fully accessible Nova Scotia, providing top-quality services promoting mobility, inclusion and independence for Nova Scotians with disabilities.

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For more information please contact Joanne Bernard 902.456.6000 ext 222 or joannebernard@easterseals.ns.ca