



Dear Friends and colleagues of the Jean Tweed Centre,

As you may know, after over 13 years with the Jean Tweed Centre, Lucy Hume will be retiring in September. Lucy led many important initiatives at Jean Tweed that resulted in ground breaking supports for Ontario's women and children. We have greatly appreciated Lucy's unwavering commitment to collaborative leadership that focused on seamless service while providing a balance between innovation and stability, and between efficiencies and excellence in women's and children's health.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Jean Tweed Centre, I am pleased to announce that, after an extensive search, Dr. Michelle Coombs has been chosen as our new Executive Director, effective September 4, 2018. The search for Lucy's successor gave board members the opportunity to meet some very accomplished and impressive candidates. It was Michelle's passion, experience and credentials that clearly distinguished her to be a leader who will continue the important work of the Centre.

Michelle is passionate about the work of the non-profit sector. Michelle has worked with marginalized communities including homeless men, women and families and people living with mental health issues and addictions for over 20 years. Her education is in adult education, community development and voluntary sector leadership. In April 2018, she completed her PhD in adult education and community development with a specialization in workplace learning and social change. Her thesis focused on women, leadership and learning.

Michelle is the past Executive Director of Elizabeth Fry Toronto, an organization that supports women who are, have been or are at risk of being in conflict with the law. During this time Michelle won the Toronto Community Foundation Vital People award. She is currently engaged as a Peer Reviewer with Imagine Canada's Standards Program, as the board chair with West Toronto Community Legal Services and most recently worked at Ontario Non Profit Housing Association. Michelle is excited to accept this key leadership role with an organization that is doing such critical work in our sector. She looks forward to working with staff, board & community partners to build on the Jean Tweed Centre's 35 years of leading edge care, support and services.

Please join me in thanking Lucy for all she has done for Jean Tweed and the broader community. Please also join me in congratulating Michelle and welcoming her to her new role at the Centre. The Board is confident Michelle will provide the Centre with outstanding vision and leadership.

Erin Keleher
Chair, Board of Directors