



citizen advocacy
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www.citizenadvocacy.org

Charitable Registration Number 13036 2817 RR0001

Citizen Advocacy's Legacy Executive Director to Retire

Sept. 26, 2018

OTTAWA - After 33 years at the helm of Citizen Advocacy Ottawa, Brian Tardif has announced his retirement, effective Sept. 28, 2018.

During his tenure as Executive Director, Tardif has overseen the strategic growth of Citizen Advocacy in response to the needs of the Ottawa community and beyond. From the core matching programs Everyday Champions and Chance for Choice, to most recently spearheading collaborations with partners that have led to programming for Independent Facilitation and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, his energy has been critical to the success of these initiatives.

Under his leadership, Citizen Advocacy has become a recognized leader in our community and in Ontario by providing innovative services, programming and support to persons of all ages living with disabilities.

"It's hard to believe that more than three decades has passed," said Tardif. "Citizen Advocacy has grown into an organization that has become the 'go to' for people with disabilities, as well as families with a member with a disability, living in Ottawa-Carleton. I want to thank the team at Citizen Advocacy and our supporters in the community for the amazing work they do every day."

The accomplishments of the organization and that it is now sought after for its expertise by community groups and various levels of government, are points of pride for Tardif. "I am leaving Citizen Advocacy knowing it's in good hands and that the future will continue to be bright."

Tardif hands the reins to Citizen Advocacy's new Executive Director, Heather Lacey. Lacey is an experienced leader with a track record in the area of advocating for children, youth, adults and their families. Prior to coming to Citizen Advocacy, she was the Chief Programs Officer for E4C, a non-profit organization in Edmonton, Alberta.

"Brian's legacy and leadership of Citizen Advocacy is the bedrock of the organization and embedded in the Ottawa community," said Lacey. "I have big shoes to fill but I am excited about the future of Citizen Advocacy and to be able to work with such a talented team."

Over the next year, Tardif will be retained on a contractual basis to oversee the completion of three major files for Citizen Advocacy and to assist with the transition.



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“On behalf of the Citizen Advocacy Board of Directors, I would like to thank Brian for his tireless dedication to the organization and the staff. His vision is what has placed Citizen Advocacy on strong footing to meet what the future may bring,” added Kirk Boyd, chair of the Board of Directors.

“I would like to welcome Heather as our new executive director. We all are looking forward to working with her.”

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