



Appointment of Executive Director ~ The Gathering Place ~ 03 June 2021

As Chair of the Board, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Paul Davis as the Executive Director of The Gathering Place, effective Monday, 07 June 2021. The Sisters of Mercy and Presentation Sisters, as the two founding congregations of The Gathering Place, join me in joy and gratitude this day.

Paul brings over 30 years of senior leadership experience and a diverse background in community development, organizational growth, and public service to this important leadership role within The Gathering Place community. Paul served with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) for over two decades before he became an elected official in 2011. He subsequently served as Minister of Service NL, Transportation and Works; Child, Youth and Family Services; and Health and Community Services before assuming the leadership of NL's Progressive Conservative Party in 2014, becoming the 12th Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador.

As an elected official, party leader, Leader of Newfoundland and Labrador's Official Opposition, and Premier, Paul engaged on critical issues related to population growth, seniors and wellness, and social development. He played an instrumental role in bringing key players together to shape the framework for the future of primary healthcare in the province.

Paul is a committed community volunteer, having served on and led many boards. He was founding Co-Chair of Avalon Motorcycle Ride For Dad. He sits on the Board of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Canada. For his work in the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary, Paul received the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1993, the Crime Stoppers' 1998 Police of the Year Award, and the RNC's Police Exemplary Service Medal in 2006.

In accepting his appointment, Paul says, "Over the past 25 years The Gathering Place has grown into a low-barrier street level community health centre with a comprehensive suite of programs and services. The dedicated staff, the hundreds of volunteers, the many partners, and the Guests make up an important community within the community. I sincerely thank The Gathering Place Board Chair, Sister Elizabeth Davis, and the entire Board for putting their faith in me. The invaluable work that occurs at The Gathering Place every day, 365 days a year, is a significant contributor to the quality of life of many. I look forward to joining this well-established team and to support them in the important work they do each and every day."

We express deep gratitude to Kim Grant who has served as interim Executive Director over the past five months. Prior to coming to The Gathering Place, Kim had been Director of Mental Health and Addictions Services for Eastern Health and had served as a member of the Implementation Team for *Towards Recovery: A Vision for a Renewed Mental Health and Addictions System for Newfoundland and Labrador*.

Kim will serve as Associate Executive Director, working closely with Paul, as they take The Gathering Place into the next stage of its journey on behalf of Guests. In accepting her new leadership role, Kim says, "It has been a privilege for me to serve in the capacity of Acting Executive Director over the past five months. I have been very appreciative of the support, commitment and hard work of our staff and volunteers during this time. The passion and compassion shown by all in serving the Guests has been inspiring. I look forward to continuing to work with this team in providing a much needed quality service."

We thank Paul and Kim for their generous acceptance of these leadership positions. May their leadership be blessed with wisdom, courage, and compassion.

Elizabeth M. Davis rsm, Chair, Board of Directors, The Gathering Place