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## Media Release

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### **Executive Director Christine Hartley leaving Our Kids Network**

Halton Region, Ontario - Our Kids Network (OKN) announced today that Christine Hartley resigned from her post as executive director, effective February 25, 2022.

Christine has been a catalyst in cultivating relationships between OKN and its network of experts. Her wealth of knowledge and leadership brought communities together to enhance professionals' capacity to serve children, youth, and families in Halton. Her strong belief in collective impact was reflected in the emphasis she placed on synergy and collaboration within OKN's team members.

Christine has had an immense influence in guiding the next phase of OKN's restructuring plan towards fulfilling its strategic goals, mission, and vision. She led the implementation of the strategic direction and connected professionals, parents, and youth together through the Community Planning Table.

During the next few months, Elisabeth Wells will assume the role of Interim Executive Director.

"OKN is a strong collaborator, and its research and resources are incomparable," Elisabeth said. "We will continue to implement OKN's strategic plan, collectively work together taking meaningful action towards Indigenous Reconciliation, and solidify our role, focusing on research and knowledge translation."

Since 2012, Elisabeth has worked with OKN partners to conduct and use research to strengthen the community's ability to improve life for children and youth. As a long-standing member of OKN, Elisabeth has worked effectively to build and maintain collaborative relationships with community partners to increase engagement and advance a Halton wide program of research.

As co-chair of the OKN Knowledge Translation and Research Committee, Elisabeth has overseen the research and knowledge mobilization activities of the network, such as the Halton Youth Impact Survey, the Early Development Instrument Data, and the Kindergarten Parent Survey. These projects serve as concrete examples where research and evidence advance meaningful action on issues facing children and youth in Halton. With over 15 years of experience in research and program evaluation, Elisabeth is passionate about collective impact and moving research and data into action. She inspires the community with the fresh perspective that "data is more than just numbers!" Elisabeth received her Ph.D. in Applied Social Psychology from the University of Guelph.

Our Kids Network conducts and shares research and brings organizations, agencies, and professionals together to share knowledge, building the community's capacity to support children, youth, and families. Its vision is "all children and youth thrive!" For more information, visit [ourkidsnetwork.ca](http://ourkidsnetwork.ca), Twitter: [@OurKidsNetwork](https://twitter.com/OurKidsNetwork).