

Steve Bell Confirmed as New Chair of DSYTC Board of Directors David Kinsman Recognized for Exemplary Leadership

June 2, 2021 – It was with a mix of sadness and excitement that the 2021-22 Board of Directors was confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre.

It marked the first time in the Centre's 28-year history that its iconic founder was absent. Sadly, Dave passed away last fall at the age of 87.

The AGM saw Steve Bell confirmed as the new Board Chair, taking over from David Kinsman who has served in that role since 2012.

Steve started his career as a Youth Worker in Ottawa before joining the Ottawa Police Service in 1996. He has risen steadily through the ranks and currently serves as Deputy Chief in charge of Operations with responsibility for identifying, establishing and developing strategic community partnership that contribute to the safety and health of our city.

Steve has extensive community and volunteer board experience, having served for a total of five years as President and Vice-President of the Rideauwood Addictions and Family Services Board. He also holds a Director position on the Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa Board and co-chairs both the Ottawa Community Youth Initiative and the Ottawa Police Community Equity Council.

"I am feeling so fortunate to be joining the Centre at such a pivotal moment in its history," he said. "I have been really impressed with the skills, experience and varied perspectives of the community leaders who serve on the Board. And the Centre's staff are doing remarkable work to literally turn around the lives of young people struggling with substance use and mental health issues."

Steve praised the work that David Kinsman has done as Chair for more than eight years, leading comprehensive governance reform, expanding and diversifying the Board, and leading a determined campaign to raise the funds needed to construct a new, purpose-built treatment centre. "David has given so much of himself to the organization and leaves the Board stronger and more effective than it has ever been. I'm grateful that he's offered to stay on for a year as Past Chair, which will ensure a smooth transition and continued steady progress."

Other community members confirmed on the Board of Directors for 2021-22 include:

- Derek Johnston, Vice Chair
- Tricia Goulbourne, Treasurer
- Dr. Mary Brown, Secretary
- Mike Beauchesne, Executive Director
- Rene Bibaud
- Kayla Champagne
- Cameron Hopgood
- Jennifer McAndrew

- Nicole Poirier
- Marilyn Reddigan
- Debra Riddell
- Michael Smith

In his closing remarks, David Kinsman thanked the Board and expressed confidence in his successor: “It has been my privilege to work with such a capable group of dedicated volunteers and an exceptional senior management team at the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre. There is no doubt that the great work will continue under Steve’s leadership. He has a wealth of relevant experience and is a proven leader in our community.”

“This is a really exciting time for our Centre,” added Mike Beauchesne, DSYTC’s Executive Director. “We see the light at the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, and we’re continuing to plan for a new treatment centre to serve more youth and families and consolidate all of our services under one roof. If we can secure the necessary funding from government partners, the Board will play a pivotal role in realizing Dave Smith’s dream of a new treatment centre. It has been an absolute pleasure working with David Kinsman for so many years and I look forward to working with Steve and the rest of the board as we move forward.”

To learn more about the Dave Smith Youth Treatment Centre, please visit:

<https://www.davesmithcentre.org/>.