



**YMCA of  
Niagara**

**Media Advisory**

**March 31, 2017**

### **YMCA of Niagara Leadership Announcement**

**Niagara**—After 36 years of YMCA leadership, Janet St. Amand, CEO, YMCA of Niagara, has announced her retirement effective September 1, 2017. On behalf of the YMCA Board of Directors, Terry Suess, Board Chair, is sharing this leadership news with stakeholders in Niagara and YMCA colleagues in Canada.

“My YMCA journey has brought great personal and professional fulfillment,” Ms. St. Amand reflects, “I have witnessed firsthand the impact of our YMCA in strengthening families and communities in Niagara. My life has been enriched by many wonderful connections with volunteers, donor, staff and community partners. While I am retiring from the YMCA, you never really leave the YMCA.”

“Our Board is very grateful of the many years of leadership provided by Janet and we wish her all the best in her retirement,” said Terry Suess, YMCA Board Chair. “There is a rich legacy of strong YMCA leaders in Niagara, and we look forward to continuing that legacy with the next stage of CEO leadership.”

Throughout her career with the YMCA, Ms. St. Amand has seen significant change as the YMCA continually strives to remain relevant and respond to community needs. She has accomplished many notable achievements including leading three capital campaigns; launching and expanding YMCA Employment and Newcomer Services; and supporting the amalgamation process of four Niagara YMCAs.

In addition, Janet was involved in the opening of five Health, Fitness and Aquatic Centre, and responding to significant shifts over the years related to Employment and Child Care Services.

Prior to joining Niagara, Janet provided leadership with the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford. She was also involved in two international partnerships with the YMCA of Trinidad-Tobago and YMCA South Africa. Ms. St. Amand has provided national leadership for YMCA Canada in Health, Fitness and Aquatics through an E-Lab model of service and as a national advisor for YMCA Child Protection.

Through her volunteer leadership, Ms. St. Amand has contributed to several Niagara-based community organizations including the Niagara Community Foundation, Leadership Niagara, and Healthy Kids Community Challenge.

In preparation for the upcoming leadership transition, the YMCA of Niagara Board has established a CEO Selection Committee to begin a search process, with leadership from YMCA Canada.

YMCA of Niagara has been serving Niagara communities for over 155 years. Today over 80,000 people benefit from a YMCA experience within 118 locations across Niagara region, thanks to the commitment of 3,200 donors, 730 volunteers and 1,500 staff. Our vision of ‘Inspiring health, wellness and community-for life’ is achieved through partnership and collaboration delivering health, fitness and aquatics services, child care, day camp, employment and newcomer services, youth outreach and healthy child development support.

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