

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ONTARIO RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES CATHY HECIMOVICH AS NEW CEO**

*Oakville, ON – September 24, 2018* – The Ontario Retirement Communities Association (ORCA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Catherine Hecimovich as Chief Executive Officer, effective September 24, 2018.

“Cathy is joining ORCA at an exciting time,” said Mike Lavallée, President of the ORCA Board of Directors. “Our membership holds strong, representing 93.6 per cent of all licensed retirement suites in this province; our educational resources and events set the standard for the rest of the country; our advocacy strategy to further sector initiatives in this new government era is formidable; our policy initiatives support members to be compliant under 21 pieces of legislation impacting the sector; and the Association’s commitment to excellence remains steadfast.”

Cathy Hecimovich is a respected healthcare CEO with more than 20 years of experience in the planning and provision of better integrated, high-quality and safe patient care. Cathy’s experience as CEO at the Central West Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) and Vice-President/Senior Director Client Services at the Mississauga Halton CCAC offered opportunities to challenge those around her to think about the system of care through the lens of the patient and caregiver experience. She is passionate about health system integration and has cultivated collaborative partnerships across acute, primary and community care.

"I am thrilled to be joining the ORCA team," Cathy Hecimovich said. "ORCA’s strong membership embodies the evolution, growth, and an absolute commitment to the retirement communities sector. I’m so looking forward to working with our members and commercial partners as we continue to ensure success today, tomorrow and in the years to come."

Cathy holds both a Bachelor of Health Sciences in Physiotherapy and a Masters in Education (Organizational Administration). She holds an academic appointment as an Assistant Professor at McMaster University with the DeGroot School of Business and the School of Rehabilitation Sciences. She is a graduate of the Advanced Healthcare Leadership Program through the Rotman School of Management at University of Toronto, is a Certified Healthcare Executive with the Canadian College of Health Leaders, and a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

The Ontario Retirement Communities Association (ORCA) is a voluntary not-for-profit organization that represents the operators of retirement homes across Ontario. With over 600 members, ORCA represents 93.6 per cent of the retirement home suites in the province. Our sector employs upward of 28,000 full-time and part time employees who support over 57,000 seniors.

**For more information:**

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