



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Release

UNITED WAY ANNOUNCED NEW CEO

The Board of Directors of United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton today announces the appointment of its new CEO, Mr. Len Lifchus.

In making the announcement, Mr. Tom Bontje, Chair of the Board for United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton, says: "On behalf of all of my Board colleagues, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Len Lifchus as our new Chief Executive Officer effective September 14, 2009. We are confident that Len is both capable of and committed to ensuring that our United Way continues to create meaningful and tangible impacts across our two communities as well as providing leadership and support to the non-profit sector."

"Our United Way is known for its efforts in connecting community members in order to find long-term solutions to the issues that affect us most. Len has the necessary leadership skills, commitment and experience to help us grow in these areas. We are most fortunate in finding someone who has over fourteen years experience in Senior Management positions at United Ways," adds Bontje.

Mr. Lifchus comes to United Way of Burlington & Greater Hamilton from United Way of Peterborough & District where he was Chief Executive Officer from 1999 to the present. Prior to that, Mr. Lifchus was Executive Director of United Way of Kelowna from 1995.

During his time in Peterborough, the United Way has expanded its Leadership Development and Training Programs, lead an Outcome Measurement Program for Eastern Ontario, became the Community Entity for the Federal Government's Homelessness Strategy, and among other things helped introduce the 211 information service to the Peterborough area. Mr. Lifchus was

particularly instrumental in bringing the concept of a Social Plan to the City of Peterborough and Peterborough County.

Mr. Lifchus has been extensively involved in the community most recently, he has served as Vice-Chair of the Central East Community Access Care Board of Directors, Vice-Chair of the City of Peterborough's Committee of Adjustment, Vice-Chair of Trent Centre for Community Based Education, Director Community Foundation of Greater Peterborough, Member Estate Planning Council of Peterborough, Resource/Advisor – Peterborough Action Committee on Poverty and Past Chair of the Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce.

In addition he has provided training to United Ways across the country and is currently a national facilitator for the United Way of Canada's Standards of Excellence.

Mr. Lifchus also has a keen love of theatre. He not only directs musicals but is Past Chair of both the Peterborough Theatre Guild and Showplace Peterborough Performance Centre.

In accepting the position, Lifchus says: "I am excited about coming to the Burlington and Hamilton area and working in an organization that is already committed to establishing lasting solutions in the community. It is this United Way's record of accomplishments that drew me to apply for this position. United Way nationally and this United Way locally are all about community partnerships and community building."

"I look forward to working with volunteers, organized labour, community organizations and associations and all levels of government as we build on the accomplishments already in place," adds Lifchus.

Over the next three months, Mr. Lifchus plans on meeting with community leaders throughout both cities. He along with the Board plans a series of Open Houses in order to provide an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas.

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