



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Child Development Institute welcomes new Chief Executive Officer**

**TORONTO, ON**—Child Development Institute (CDI) is pleased to name Dr. Lynn Ryan MacKenzie, Ph.D., as the agency's new Chief Executive Officer, effective October 1, 2018. Outgoing CEO Tony Diniz will retire after 28 years of indelible service, leaving behind a legacy that has shaped CDI into a leader of children's mental health services and childcare.

Dr. Ryan MacKenzie steps into this role after serving as Acting Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations for the Department of Health, Government of Nunavut. Her diverse health and human services experience made her appointment by Child Development Institute's Board of Directors a unanimous one. "Beyond her extensive experience and deep academic background, is her track record of forming great working teams, enabling leadership, and creating an environment that is conducive to great decision-making for the benefit of clients and stakeholders," said James Porter, Board President, Child Development Institute.

Working with the Government of Nunavut since 2011, Dr. Ryan MacKenzie has held the positions of Executive Director of Family Services, Planning and Performance (Health), Territorial Director for Mental Health and Addictions, and the Executive Director of Social Services. Prior to working in Canada's North, Dr. Ryan MacKenzie was the Executive Director of Algoma Family Services, a children's mental health centre based in Sault Ste. Marie for more than 10 years. Her considerable background also includes management roles in the youth justice sector in the US. She has also been active with the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement and the Canadian College of Health Leaders. Dr. Ryan MacKenzie has a Ph.D. and an M.S. from New York's Cornell University in Human Services Studies. She also earned an M.S. from Nova University, Fla., in Child and Youth Care Administration.

Dr. Ryan MacKenzie is excited to continue CDI's mission to transform the lives of children, youth and their families through a collaborative leadership style. "I look forward to working with the CDI team and its many partners in responding to the needs of the community and in moving forward innovative, quality programming across the sector," she said.

CDI was officially formed in 2004 through the voluntary merger of EarlsCourt Child and Family Centre and The West End Crèche in Toronto. The two legacy organizations each have a proud history of helping children and families and addressing community needs for over 100 years. In 2014, CDI and the Integra Foundation amalgamated, bringing together two like-minded, accredited children's mental health agencies serving children, youth and families in Toronto. CDI now serves over 4,000 children and families every year across four program streams: Early Intervention Services, Family Violence Services, the Integra Program and Healthy Child Development. Most recently, CDI successfully scaled one of its premier programs, Stop Now and Plan (SNAP®), led by Dr. Leena Augimeri, Director, SNAP Scientific & Program Development. SNAP is the first national program in children's mental health in Canada. By 2022, through the SNAP National Expansion Campaign, this evidence-based, proven program will

successfully reach 140 underserved Canadian communities where thousands of children are in critical need of mental health services.

"I am confident and positive about the selection of Dr. Lynn Ryan MacKenzie for leadership into the future," said Mr. Diniz. "Her background and all-encompassing knowledge of the youth justice and mental health sectors will see the continuity of CDI's mission to transform the lives of children, youth and their families."

For more information, or to request an interview, email [spanetta@childdevelop.ca](mailto:spanetta@childdevelop.ca), or call 416-603-1827, ext. 2273.

#### **ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE**

Child Development Institute (CDI) is an accredited children's mental health organization mandated with the mission to support the healthy development of children, youth and their families. A leader in the field, CDI develops and delivers world-class, evidence-informed mental health programs and services across four streams (Early Intervention Services, Family Violence Services, the Integra Program, and Healthy Child Development). Recognized for its innovation and excellence in child development, CDI is committed to transforming the landscape of children's mental health through continuous process improvement, research and training.

For more information about CDI, please visit: [childdevelop.ca](http://childdevelop.ca).

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