



# News Release

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **Glenys Webster selected RCY's Executive Director of Reviews and Investigations**

VICTORIA – Glenys Webster will join the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth (RCY) as the organization's new Executive Director of Reviews and Investigations, effective Jan. 17.

Webster has worked on issues related to children's health and well-being for the past 17 years. For the past five years, she has held the position of Director of Women's, Maternal and Early Childhood Health in the Population and Public Health Division of British Columbia's Ministry of Health.

"We are delighted to welcome Glenys to the RCY," said Representative Jennifer Charlesworth. "She brings a strong focus on systems thinking, partnership and equity – including a deep commitment to improving the health and well-being of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and other communities impacted by colonialism, systemic racism and intergenerational trauma – to our Executive team and our entire organization."

Webster brings to the position a strong focus on the health and well-being of women, gender-diverse people, children, youth and families. She has worked in a variety of areas of high relevance for the RCY including gender-based violence; ending the practice of birth alerts; improving wraparound care for perinatal families experiencing challenges such as mental health and substance use; improving the coordination of early childhood services and promoting healthy child development; and helping children and youth with support needs. She has both led and contributed to numerous studies and reviews, including qualitative and participatory research with and within communities, and brings a "two-eyed seeing" approach to her work.

In her Ministry of Health role, Webster led and participated in a number of cross-ministerial initiatives, and created extensive relationships with partners, including First Nations and Métis leadership, governments and organizations. She has a deep understanding of policy and practice, and how to effect change. Webster holds a PhD in Population and Public Health (UBC 2011) and five years of postdoctoral experience at SFU (2012 to 2017), all with a focus on children's and maternal environmental health.

Webster's depth in a broad array of research approaches and her leadership experience will be helpful as she guides the team at RCY that is responsible for reviewing critical injuries and deaths reported to the Office and producing investigative, aggregate and themed public reports for the organization.

"As a White settler and uninvited guest living on the unceded ancestral lands of the Lekwungen people in Victoria, I am grateful for the opportunity to live, work and raise my family on these beautiful lands, and for the stewardship of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations, whose deep connection to the land, air and waterways continues to this day," Webster said. "I am delighted to be

joining the RCY family and look forward to working collaboratively with government, First Nations, Métis, and community partners to improve the lives of B.C.'s children, youth and families.”

Webster will take over from April Fox, who moved over from a leadership role on RCY's Advocacy team to serve as Acting Executive Director of Reviews and Investigations for the past year. “April has brought dedicated and careful leadership to that acting role,” Charlesworth said. “And with her return to the Individual Advocacy and First Nations, Métis and Inuit Engagement leadership team, she is well positioned to foster collaboration between RCY teams on a range of initiatives that will support young people in B.C.”

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