

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday June 18, 2018

Thames Valley Children's Centre Chief Executive Officer Retiring June 2019

Today, Dr. John LaPorta announced his plans to retire in June, 2019, after 25 years, as Chief Executive Officer of Thames Valley Children's Centre (TVCC). Dr. LaPorta leaves a long and impactful legacy not only on Thames Valley Children's Centre, but on children's services overall in the province of Ontario.



For nearly two and half decades, Dr. LaPorta has led TVCC through growth and transformation. One of Dr. LaPorta's first and most significant contributions to the organization was implementing client and family directed services based on family-centred care. In fact in the 1990s, TVCC became the first Children's Treatment Centre to establish a Client Advisory Committee. Throughout his tenure, Dr. LaPorta has always kept clients and families at the heart of all that we do at TVCC.

A staunch advocate of children with special needs and their families, Dr. LaPorta has created an organizational culture where staff and clients' alike focus on strengths and abilities. Today, Clinicians are enabled to support clients in the development of their potential; to pursue the best opportunities to participate in and experience the highest quality of life. To better ensure TVCC's ability to achieve the vision of "Our clients at their best!" Dr. LaPorta led TVCC through a capital campaign to add a 30,000 square foot third floor to the head office in London to accommodate growth. As well, over Dr. LaPorta's leadership tenure, services and office locations have expanded throughout the region; TVCC currently operates out of 14 locations throughout Southwestern Ontario.

Since Dr. LaPorta took on the role of Chief Executive Officer, Thames Valley Children's Centre has:

- gone from an annual operating budget of 6 million to 38 million;
- increased from serving 3600 to over 9000 clients and families annually;
- become an internationally recognized and accredited organization;
- grown from a staff of ~125 to a staff of ~345.

More of Dr. LaPorta's legacy is found in many of the innovations that have occurred over the past couple of decades at the Centre: establishment of the Southwest Regional Autism program (now operating as Autism services); creation of one of the first practicing paediatric clinical gait analysis labs in the country; establishment of the Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Program (in partnership with London Health Sciences Centre); to name a few. Dr. LaPorta is a recognized clinical authority and sought after speaker throughout Canada and beyond. Dr. LaPorta will leave the Centre having established an enviably solid foundation to enable the continued success of the organization.

Thames Valley Children's Centre has contracted Sartor and Associates to conduct the search for Dr. LaPorta's successor. The search is anticipated to begin in the Fall of 2018.



Christine Wellenreiter
Outgoing Chair , Board of Directors
Thames Valley Children's Centre



David Elliot
Incoming Chair, Board of Directors
Thames Valley Children's Centre

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