



SIoux LOOKOUT

Hub of the North

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MEDIA RELEASE

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~ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ~

Sioux Lookout CAO Retires, New CAO Announced

Sioux Lookout, ON – After an extensive career in municipal government, including five plus years with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, Chief Administrative Officer Michelle Larose is calling it a career.

Larose said, “While I am looking forward to spending more time with my family, I am going to truly miss the wonderful people I have been able to work with during my time at the Municipality – Council, our dedicated staff and our vital community stakeholders. I really loved working in Sioux Lookout.”

Mayor Doug Lawrance thanked Larose for her strength and leadership during her tenure, including guiding the Municipality through multiple challenges such as the COVID pandemic and last year’s historic flooding. Lawrance reflected on her time in Sioux Lookout, saying, “Michelle has been a wonderful asset to the Municipality and it has been a true pleasure to work closely with her over the last five years. Michelle faced many unusual challenges, and led us through them with strength of character and clear guidance. She will be missed. We wish her all the best in her retirement.”

Larose informed the Mayor and Council of her decision to retire earlier this year, which led to an extensive recruitment effort involving an executive search firm, interviewing candidates from across the country, and a lot of deliberation by Council. “In the end,” stated Mayor Lawrance, “we decided that the best candidate was already here.”

During the Regular Council Meeting held last night, Mayor Doug Lawrance and members of Sioux Lookout Council adopted By-law 101-23, naming current Municipal Clerk, Manager of Corporate Services, and current Acting CAO, Brian P. MacKinnon, as the new CAO, effective January 1, 2024.

Mayor Lawrance also noted that the change in the Municipality’s top administrator will come with a few changes in the senior leadership structure. “Instead of having both a CAO and a Municipal Clerk, we will be combining these roles into one position, the CAO/Municipal Clerk. We have great confidence in Brian’s skill, capacity, and dedication to our community. He has extensive Municipal management experience and a leadership style that encourages staff to use their skills and strengths to everyone’s benefit.”

MacKinnon brings 17 years of experience with the Municipality to the table, along with an in-depth knowledge of our staff, departments, challenges, stakeholders, and history. He has worked his way up

through several roles during that time, starting in 2006 as the Cemeteries and Licensing Coordinator, moving through various positions and joining the Management Team in 2012. Brian has taken on various Management roles, including his current role of Manager of Corporate Services/Municipal Clerk, and Acting CAO.

“I am truly honoured by this vote of confidence from our Mayor and Council,” said MacKinnon. “I am excited for this opportunity to further serve the residents of Sioux Lookout and help the incredible team I work with every day to foster innovation and growth for the community.” He adds, “It has been wonderful working with and learning from Michelle, and I wish her the very best in her retirement.”

-30-

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