

**For Immediate Release**

Start Me Up Niagara  
17 Gale Crescent, St. Catharines, ON  
C/O: Sabrina Hill, Media Communications Coordinator  
1(905)-984-5310 (ext. 100)  
[mediacom@startmeupniagara.ca](mailto:mediacom@startmeupniagara.ca)



## **START ME UP NIAGARA WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**[ST. CATHARINES, ON, NOVEMBER 27TH, 2020]** The Board of Directors of Start Me Up Niagara is pleased to announce that Laura Dumas has been named as the organization's new Executive Director. Laura will succeed Susan Venditti who is retiring on November 30, 2020.

Laura brings over thirty years of not-for-profit experience with the Elizabeth Fry Society, March of Dimes and most recently Community Support Services of Niagara where she served as Program Manager.

Laura has big shoes to fill. Susan Venditti founded Start Me Up Niagara twenty-one years ago and has been its only Executive Director. She has built it into one of Niagara's major providers of services and support with individuals facing significant life challenges such as addiction, mental health issues, poverty, homelessness and unemployment. In Susan's letter to the Board, she had this to say, *"It's been an amazing twenty-one years helping build a team who believe that welcoming, respectful relationships are key to providing effective human services and changing lives. I am thankful for the gifts I have received. The blessings are beyond measure."* Susan will be staying on for a brief period during the transition. She will be sorely missed.

The Board is delighted to welcome Laura to Start Me Up Niagara. We are confident that she has the skills and experience to build on Susan's legacy and to lead our organization into the future.

(Rev.) Dr. Paul Miller  
Chair, Board of Directors  
Start Me Up Niagara

**##**

If you would like more information about this transition, please call Sabrina Hill at 905 984-5310 or email [mediacom@startmeupniagara.ca](mailto:mediacom@startmeupniagara.ca)