

OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION

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For Immediate Release

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THE NIAGARA PARKS COMMISSION WELCOMES NEW INTERIM CHAIR AND NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Niagara Falls, ON – The Niagara Parks Commission (NPC), the Ontario agency tasked with the responsibility of preserving, enhancing and showcasing the beauty of Niagara Falls and the rich natural and cultural heritage of the lands it controls, is pleased to announce that Janice Thomson, formerly the Vice Chair of the Board, has assumed the role of Interim Chair of the Board. Ms. Thomson replaces the former Chair Fay Booker, who is moving into the position of General Manager of the Commission. NPC's search committee was unanimous in selecting Ms. Booker as the new General Manager. Ms. Booker resigned today from the Commission after accepting the General Manager's position.

"We engaged the services of a professional search firm to recruit candidates for this important position. Ms. Booker was selected following an exhaustive search that considered highly qualified candidates from across North America," commented Ms. Thomson, "Ms. Booker's skill set is clearly in line with our requirements. She has the entrepreneurial drive that we need as a Commission to successfully steward our unique natural assets. We believe that she is the right choice to continue the Commission's focus on strong governance and accountability," Ms. Thomson continued.

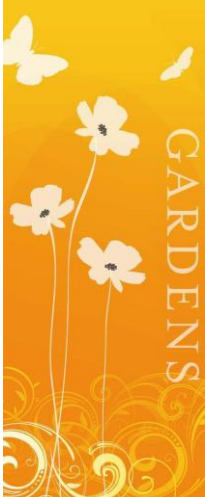
Ms. Booker is a seasoned business professional with extensive experience in corporate governance, accounting and auditing. Her experience includes independent consulting on corporate governance, risk management and organizational effectiveness for clients across Canada. She has also held key positions at national accounting and auditing firms and financial institutions.

As General Manager, Ms. Booker will be responsible for implementing the vision and strategies contained within the Commission's new strategic plan, working with a wide range of public and private sector stakeholders, and identifying new sources of long-term, sustainable revenue that will assist the Commission in fulfilling its important mandate. As a self-funded agency, NPC is responsible for generating all of the revenue required to meet its \$75 million annual budget.

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In addition to maintaining over 1,300 hectares of parkland that stretch some 56 kilometres along the Niagara River from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario, NPC owns and operates family attractions, golf courses, historic sites, a horticultural school, restaurants, and a butterfly conservatory. In addition, NPC operates its own police service, visitor transportation and tour services, road and snow maintenance services, and community and recreational facilities.

Created in 1885, The Niagara Parks Commission is an Agency of the Government of Ontario. It is NPC's mission to protect the natural and cultural heritage along the Niagara River for the enjoyment of visitors while remaining financially self-sufficient.

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