

October 3, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton Community Foundation President & CEO Announces Retirement

Terry Cooke to leave HCF at end of 2024

(HAMILTON) - Hamilton Community Foundation Board Chair Cheryl Jensen announced yesterday, that following an extraordinary 40-year career of leadership across public, private and charitable sectors in Hamilton, Terry Cooke will retire at the end of 2024 after 15 years as the Foundation's President & CEO.

"Terry led the Foundation through a period of remarkable growth in both its assets and community impact," says Jensen. "Drawing on his knowledge, experience and relationships, he spearheaded a new awareness of HCF and mobilized more of its resources for the community's benefit."

Jensen says that during Cooke's tenure, HCF has also gained national and global recognition for its pioneering work in impact investing: where the Foundation's assets are invested to generate both a social and/or environmental return as well as a financial return. Building on its longstanding work in poverty reduction, under Cooke's leadership the Foundation also launched initiatives to increase post-secondary access and address affordable housing.

Calling his time at HCF "an extraordinary honour and privilege," Cooke says now is the right time for a leadership transition.

"The end of 2024 will mark 15 years that I have had the privilege of serving as President & CEO of this great and historic Hamilton institution. It will coincidentally be the year that I turn 65. I am so very proud of the work that we have done together in building on its 70-year legacy of leadership, innovation and community impact, that has been so widely recognized, both nationally and globally.

"I have had the good luck to work in leadership roles in the public, private and charitable sectors over the past 40+ years. I have worked with many talented and wise leaders in both management and governance roles. But I would gladly stack up the Board and management at HCF with any of those experiences.

"With a renewed vision, mission, and strategic plan in place, as well as an engaged and committed Board of Directors, the Foundation is well-positioned to deal with the challenges and, more importantly, the opportunities ahead."

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Backgrounder attached: Terry Cooke retirement letter to board and staff

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About Hamilton Community Foundation

Hamilton Community Foundation has been working to drive positive change in Hamilton since 1954. We do this by helping people give in a way that has meaning to them and impact in the community, providing grants and financing to charitable organizations and initiatives and bringing people together to address priority issues that affect Hamiltonians. Last year, HCF gave 942 grants to 378 charities, totalling \$12.6 million. Our assets include \$20.8 million in loans to local charities that generate both a financial and a social and/or environmental return.

September 29, 2023

Dear Friends,

In the 40+ years of my career, I've come to realize that perhaps the hardest decision in leadership is recognizing the approaching expiration of your own shelf life. 2024 will mark 15 years that I have had the privilege of serving as President and CEO of this great and historic Hamilton institution. It will coincidentally be the year that I turn 65. I am so very proud of the work that we have done together in building on HCF's 70-year legacy of leadership, innovation and community impact, that has been so widely recognized, both nationally and globally.

It is therefore with profoundly mixed emotions that I give notice of my intent to retire in the fourth quarter of 2024, just over a year from now. I do so with confidence that the Board and staff are well-equipped and positioned to build on our collective successes. And our steady focus on leadership succession both on the Board and senior management will serve you well through the recruitment, selection and onboarding of my successor.

Let me close with some necessary thank yous. I have had the good luck to work in leadership roles in the public, private and charitable sectors over the past 40+ years. I have worked with many talented and wise leaders in both management and governance roles. But I would gladly stack up the Board and management at HCF with any of those previous relationships. I am so grateful to all of you who have been part of this amazing ride.

I especially want to thank the four loves of my life. To my wife and soulmate Maureen Wilson and our three amazing children, Lane O'Hara, Frances and Wilson, I couldn't have done any of this without your love and support. Can't wait to see where the next chapter will take us as a family.

There is much still that I want to accomplish over the next year, so I won't be coasting. But when the time comes to depart, I will be watching, cheering and assisting (if called upon) for all of the good things that lie ahead for Hamilton Community Foundation.

Warmly,

Terry Cooke
President and CEO