



THE FEDERATION OF SPCAs AND HUMANE SOCIETIES
FÉDÉRATION DES SOCIÉTÉS D'ASSISTANCE AUX ANIMAUX



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Humane Canada Announces CEO Barbara Cartwright's Retirement After 15 Years of Transformative Leadership and Begins Search for Her Successor

April 27, 2026 - It is with deep appreciation and heartfelt respect, we share news of the upcoming retirement of Humane Canada CEO, Barbara Cartwright, effective December 31st.

Over the past 15 years, Barbara's vision and dedication have shaped Humane Canada into the most respected and influential national voice for animal welfare. Under her leadership, the organization evolved from the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies and SPCAs into Humane Canada, reflecting a renewed commitment to uniting the sector and engaging the public to drive meaningful change for animals.

Barbara's impact is profound and far-reaching. Her leadership at Humane Canada helped secure pivotal amendments to the Criminal Code, led to the founding of the National Centre for the Prosecution of Animal Cruelty, and supported the creation of the Violence Link Coalition. She launched the Summit for Animals—now in its 13th year as Canada's largest national animal welfare conference—along with Canada's first One Health, One Welfare conference. She also spearheaded the development of the country's first national animal shelter accreditation program. These achievements reflect her unwavering belief in collaboration, excellence, and a stronger future for animals across Canada.

In early 2025, Barbara was awarded the esteemed Coronation Medal in the Senate of Canada recognizing over 25 years as a driving force in the charitable sector, committed to building a more humane world through her leadership. Her work in policy development, stakeholder engagement, and strategic planning has led to groundbreaking initiatives and significant legislative reforms.

Barbara's steadfast pursuit of progress to end animal suffering, her talent for turning challenges into opportunities, and her inspiring leadership has left a legacy that is defined by determination, strategic vision, and a deep belief in Humane Canada's mission. Without question, Barbara has left an indelible mark on animal welfare in our nation, and we are deeply grateful for her exceptional service and tireless advocacy.

The Humane Canada Board of Directors has begun a comprehensive leadership plan to appoint the next CEO. Following a thorough preparation phase, we are ready to immediately launch an open recruitment process with a posting going live on April 27th. The search will include multiple rounds of structured interviews from May to July with a final candidate selection expected by the end of July. The new CEO is anticipated to begin their role in mid September, with a two-month overlap period to ensure a seamless transition of leadership and institutional knowledge. This structured transition allows the organization to honor Barbara's legacy while preparing confidently for its next chapter when Barbara officially retires on December 31st.



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Throughout the transition period, organizational priorities will include maintaining strong relationships with Humane Canada's members and partners, ensuring continuity across national programs, and supporting a smooth and informed onboarding for the incoming CEO. The Board and senior leadership team will work closely with both leaders to ensure a seamless transition. Through this proactive and transparent approach Humane Canada is committed to strong governance, organizational stability, and continued impact for animals nationwide.

Please join us in celebrating Barbara Cartwright's remarkable contributions, inspiring leadership, and enduring legacy, and in supporting a thoughtful and well-planned transition that positions Humane Canada for continued success.

Full job posting here: <https://humanecanada.ca/en/sector-professionals/careers>

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ABOUT HUMANE CANADA

Humane Canada is the federation of SPCAs and humane societies, driving positive, progressive change to end animal cruelty, improve animal protection, and promote the humane treatment of all animals. To learn more, visit humanecanada.ca

Learn more about the Accreditation Program: <https://humanecanada.ca/en/sector-professionals/humane-canada-accreditation>