



Deborah Ann Headley

New Executive Director, Roberts/Smart Centre

Deborah Ann Headley is a distinguished leader in the mental health services sector with over two decades of dedicated expertise. Throughout her career, she has successfully led the delivery of mental health services within complex, political environments while also improving and transforming care.

As the Executive Director of Child and Youth Mental Health Provincial Services at the BC Ministry for Children and Family Development, she implemented innovative strategies to enhance support for youth with complex mental health challenges. Her leadership significantly improved access to critical mental health resources, ensuring accessible and effective care.

For the BC Ministry for Children and Family Development, she has served as Executive Director of both Service Delivery Provincial Operations and Child and Youth Mental Health Provincial Services. In her most recent role as Director of Community and Human Services of Hastings County, Deborah's strategic vision led to rapid improvements in service delivery and access, enhancing operational efficiency and community impact.

Deborah has been recognized with the Premier's Award for Excellence and Innovation in the Partnership category, underscoring her pioneering efforts to extend mental health services to underserved rural and remote communities.

She holds a Master of Social Work from the University of British Columbia, certifications in strategic and public sector leadership, and was previously a registered clinical social worker. Her extensive expertise includes overseeing significant portfolios and partnerships, driving systemic change, and ensuring successful outcomes for individuals and families in need of quality mental health support.

As the newly appointed Executive Director at Roberts/Smart Centre, Deborah brings a wealth of experience, passion, and a forward-looking vision. She is committed to advancing the Centre's mission of providing innovative, high-quality treatment for youth with complex mental health and behavioural challenges—enabling them to heal, learn, grow, and achieve their full potential.