

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Celebrating Carol Barkwell – a bold leader dedicated to improving women’s access to justice

May 31, 2024

[Luke’s Place Support & Resource Centre for Women & Children](#)

**(Oshawa)** We are delighted to announce that Carol Barkwell, founding Executive Director of [Luke’s Place](#), has been recognized with a [2023-24 Ministry of the Attorney General’s Victim Services Award of Distinction](#).

The annual Attorney General’s Victim Services Awards of Distinction recognize the dedication and achievements of individuals and organizations working to support people who have experienced victimization due to crime and to raise awareness of victims’ issues in Ontario.

Speaking of her nomination, Carol Barkwell said, “I am very honoured to be nominated by the courageous founder of Luke’s Place, Kate, who entrusted me with leading this important work in her son’s memory.”

#### **A bold leader**

Carol has played a pivotal role in the Luke’s Place story since the beginning, being part of a small working committee that envisioned and brought the organization to life. For more than 20 years, Carol has led the organization through steady growth. Under her leadership, the reach and influence of Luke’s Place has grown immensely. As a result of her talent for building and nurturing relationships, she has helped create a network of professionals equipped with tools to represent and support abuse survivors.

Carol has a quiet confidence and strength. She is empathetic and compassionate towards the women Luke’s Place serves. Carol offers her team a caring, capable, and mentoring leadership style. It is because of Carol that the vision for Luke’s Place has grown far beyond being Canada’s first stand-alone legal support centre. Today, Luke’s Place is a national centre of excellence for survivors of intimate partner violence and their advocates.

Carol has a strong history of advancing women’s access to justice, advocating and raising awareness to the issues women face when leaving violence, and inspiring change. Simply put, her work has saved lives.

Congratulations Carol!

#### **Media Contact**

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## **Additional Resources**

- [Learn about Luke's Place](#)
- [2023-24 Victim Services Awards of Distinction Recipients](#)
- [Past Luke's Place awards](#)

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