



**The Doorway welcomes
Laura Kathler
as new
Executive Director**



The Board of Directors is pleased to announce Laura Kathler as *The Doorway's* new Executive Director effective September 3, 2025. "We know that the impact of our work extends far beyond individual youth. As these young people thrive, their transformation ripples throughout the community, igniting a chain reaction of positive change," says Athena Pulzoni, Chair of the Board, "The Doorway is not just shaping futures, it is shaping communities, and we believe that Laura is a great fit for The Doorway at this stage on its journey."

The Doorway is a non-profit, charitable organization supporting young adults, aged 17-30, who have found themselves living on the street. Since 1988, we have been dedicated to helping youth thrive by offering unconditional support, encouragement, and guidance as they choose to leave the streets for a better life. We respect each young person's autonomy and individuality and are committed to fostering an inclusive community where they feel valued, understood, and empowered. We believe in building agency—helping youth recognize their strengths, make confident choices, and take meaningful action toward their goals. By nurturing their resilience, critical thinking, and adaptability, we empower them to overcome challenges, seize opportunities, and actively shape their future in a positive way. (Learn more about us at thedorway.ca)

Laura (she/her) is a strategic, people-first leader with over a decade of experience working alongside youth, community partners, and frontline teams to create meaningful, youth-driven change. Her background spans grassroots program delivery, cross-sector collaboration, and national policy advocacy—all grounded in a belief that young people deserve to lead their own journeys.

Laura spent much of her early career working in Winnipeg Centre delivering after-school programs to young people in the community. During that time, Laura worked with a team of community leaders to open Winnipeg's West End 24-Hour Safe Space for Youth, later serving as Youth & Families Program Manager at the Spence Neighbourhood Association. Most recently, she served as Executive Director of the National Alliance for Children and Youth, where she helped unite Canada's youth-serving sector in shared strategy, advocacy, and innovation.

Laura is known for her relational leadership, strategic thinking, and commitment to community-rooted solutions. Now based in Calgary, she's excited to return to place-based work that centers youth voice, trust, and possibility. Laura is a settler, born on Treaty One land.

"This is an exciting time for The Doorway," says Floyd Visser, retiring Executive Director. "Laura has the experience and ability to honour our past and continue to move us forward based on insights gained from listening to youth."