



WW2G Trek connects outstanding women leaders across health and long-term care



peopleCare warmly welcomes Donna Duncan, CEO of the Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA) to the Trek, walking July 20.

Donna is an experienced senior leader, with an extensive background in health and academics. Prior to joining OLTCA, she was President and CEO of the Hincks-Dellcrest Centre, and before that, an executive at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Asked about her reasons for joining the Trek, **Donna says she is looking forward to networking with new colleagues and learning about what matters to them. She also anticipates being inspired.** “I love to connect with people,” she explains. “I’m also new to long-term care, so I’m motivated by the opportunity to meet these women and men leaders who are not only doing great things in our sector, but who are also committed to going above and beyond to help others.”

Donna’s professional background is diverse. With an M.A. from Wilfrid Laurier University, part of her always believed she would be a University professor. That is until she “fell” into politics, and a **career that has included government relations through her own consulting firm; advising Ontario cabinet ministers, hospital CEOs and university presidents; and even a stint with the United Nations.**

Having served on the Boards of organizations such as Seneca College, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Children’s Mental Health Ontario, **joining the Trek speaks to Donna’s commitment to philanthropy, advocacy and volunteerism.** She is also no stranger to the value of women empowering one another. As a member of JeansMarines, she completed the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. “I absolutely loved the experience of achieving something so rewarding and doing so as a collective of strong women of all shapes and sizes.” says Donna.

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Feeling fortunate to have been helped in her career by others, Donna frequently pays it forward. One former colleague Donna took under her wing has launched her own educational company for students with learning disabilities. Another is now head of a provincial council on infant and maternal health. “The people who mentored me, and those I’ve mentored, are still very present in my life,” says Donna. **“These are lifetime relationships and it’s really exciting to see the paths to leadership they’ve taken.”**

As a leader, Donna encourages her team to take risks and to be willing to make mistakes. She reminds them that people in leadership positions are all just human beings, most of whom gladly offer advice and guidance if asked. **Most importantly, she urges all promising young leaders to first imagine all that could be and then find a way forward.** “There’s magic in letting go of the misperception that some things are not possible,” says Donna. **“I encourage people to think about what makes their heart sing and then dive right in.”**