



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ash Avery to lead Feed Nova Scotia

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Dartmouth, N.S. -- The Board of Directors of Feed Nova Scotia is pleased to announce that Ash Avery will be joining the organization as executive director effective Sept. 3.

“Ash is an experienced leader in the non-profit sector and her deep commitment to social justice and community empowerment makes her an ideal choice as the next executive director of Feed Nova Scotia,” said board chair Mohammad Ali Raza. “We are confident that she is the right choice to lead our organization’s push for systemic change that addresses the root causes of food insecurity in Nova Scotia while also distributing food to 140 food banks, meal programs and shelters across the province.”

Avery comes to Feed Nova Scotia from the Coverdale Justice Society. While she was Executive Director of Coverdale, the organization grew from two staff members and a \$150,000 budget to a thriving multi-service agency with over 50 employees and an annual budget exceeding \$2 million. Under her leadership, Coverdale expanded its reach, providing comprehensive support to thousands of criminalized and incarcerated women, youth, and gender-diverse individuals. Her innovative approach, which blends restorative justice principles with trauma-responsive care, has positioned her as a thought leader in the field.

In addition to her leadership at Coverdale, Avery has been an Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University’s Schulich School of Law and a guest lecturer at Saint Mary's University, Nova Scotia Community College, and Mount Allison University. She developed curricula focused on grassroots advocacy, public policy, and community engagement in legal reform. Her ability to bridge academic insight with practical application has made her a sought-after speaker at conferences across North America, where she shares her expertise on transforming moments into movements and driving lasting social change.

Avery is on the Board of Trustees at the Dalhousie Legal Aid Society and was a former board member of both the Elizabeth Fry Society and Byrny House. A member of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, she is deeply committed to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued.

Current Executive Director Nick Jennery will remain in the role until Avery begins work in September and will then work with her to ensure a smooth transition.

“The Board of Directors of Feed Nova Scotia wishes to thank Nick for his outstanding leadership over the last 10 years,” Raza said. “Alongside the staff, volunteers, member network, donors and supporters, Nick has spearheaded our efforts to provide support to tens of thousands of individuals

every year, despite facing both local and global crises. Under his leadership, Feed Nova Scotia has become a strong voice for advocacy and policy change while maintaining a commitment to support the member network in meeting the immediate needs for food.”

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