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Announcing Executive Director Laura Efron's Departure from the Vancouver Fringe

For Immediate Release: October 30, 2019 — The Vancouver Fringe Theatre Society's Board President, Sharon Sutherland, and the Fringe Board of Directors announced today that Laura Efron will leave her post as Executive Director at the end of the year to pursue other professional and personal interests.

Laura led the organization through two Festivals, during which she successfully returned the Vancouver Fringe to a surplus position, increased financial payouts to artists, and significantly moved forward with implementing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion work—this included launching the TD Fringe Forward Award in partnership with TD Bank Group and Newworld Theatre. As well, the Vancouver Fringe was again voted by *Georgia Straight* readers as the Best Performing Arts Festival each year during her tenure.

"It has been an honour to immerse myself into an organization that is so surrounded by enthusiasm and community support," Laura said. "I am proud that I was able to play a significant part in providing thousands of people with the opportunity to share stories and experiences that were inspiring and impactful. I feel confident that the current team including the board, year-round staff, seasonal staff, and dedicated volunteers will move forward and continue offering excellent Festivals and making other positive impacts within the arts community."

The Board of Directors is establishing a search committee which will include community representation. They will conduct a search for an innovative Executive Director to lead the Fringe into its next frontier, building on the society's mission of cultivating artists and audiences in the creation of an open and vibrant independent theatre community. The job posting will be circulated shortly and the Board expects to announce who the new Executive Director will be in the new year.

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