

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Torstar names Irene Gentle new VP, Inclusion & Strategic Partnerships

## Anne Marie Owens appointed Editor, Toronto Star

**TORONTO, Ontario – March 24, 2021** – Torstar Corporation announced today that Irene Gentle, currently Editor of the Toronto Star, has been appointed Vice President, Inclusion and Strategic Partnerships, effective April 26, 2021.

In this new position, she will review and evaluate new strategic media opportunities as well as overseeing the development of inclusion and diversity initiatives for the company. She will report directly to Jordan Bitove, co-owner of Torstar and Publisher of the Toronto Star.

Ms Gentle will be succeeded as Editor of the Toronto Star by Anne Marie Owens, former Editor-in-Chief of the National Post who comes to the Star from McMaster University where she is Executive Advisor, Strategic Communications.

"Irene has contributed immeasurably in the nearly three years she has been at the helm of the Star newsroom," Bitove said. "Under her excellent leadership, we launched and developed our successful digital subscription strategy, producing innovative and award-winning news stories and features on multiple platforms, including during the current pandemic that has forced our newsroom to operate remotely. Just last week under her leadership Star journalists were nominated for eight National Newspaper Awards.

"Irene also has been at the forefront of developing new initiatives relating to diversity and inclusiveness in our newsrooms," Bitove added. "I look forward to working with her in this important and transformative new position. Her proven passion, leadership and track record will be invaluable in accelerating our plans to be a leading news organization in these critical areas."

Ms Gentle has served as Editor of the Toronto Star, Canada's largest newspapers since June 21, 2018. She is the first woman in the Star's 129-year history to be named to this important position. She has had a distinguished career as a senior editor at several Torstar publications, including the Toronto Star and The Hamilton Spectator. She first joined the Star in 2011 as Business Editor and was appointed City Editor in 2012 and Managing Editor in 2016.

Ms Owens joins the Toronto Star after serving as a strategic communications advisor since 2019 at McMaster University in Hamilton. She previously served for nearly five years as the top editor at the National Post, overseeing a national newsroom of 75 employees and leading the newsroom through two major reorganizations in building a more digitally focused operation.

She initially joined the National Post as a reporter in 1998 and held a series of top editing positions before moving to Maclean's magazine in 2011 as Deputy Editor. She returned to the National Post as Editor-in-Chief in 2014. She started her journalism career at the St. Catharines Standard, where she spent 10 years as a reporter.

"We are excited to have both Irene Gentle in this important new role and Anne Marie Owens as the new leader of the Toronto Star's newsroom," said Paul Rivett, Chairman of Torstar. "Ms Owens has a distinguished record of producing forward-looking, high-quality journalism with experience transforming newsrooms into the digital future. We look forward to her joining the Toronto Star."

### **About Torstar:**

Torstar's businesses include digital and print news organizations, including the Toronto Star, Canada's largest daily newspaper, six regional daily newspapers in Ontario, including The Hamilton Spectator, and more than 70 weekly community newspapers in Ontario; and related businesses such as iPolitics, Metroland Parcel Delivery services as well as an interest in Sing Tao, one of Canada's leading Chinese-language media companies. Torstar also holds a number of digital investments, including a majority interest in VerticalScope, a North American vertically-focused digital media company, and LeaseBusters, Canada's leading car lease re-negotiation business.

### For more information, please contact:

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