

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$200,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Fortifies YWCA Toronto's Resilience

Toronto, ON – On Thursday, the staff at YWCA Toronto had the opportunity to reflect on the organizational improvements it's made thanks to a \$200,000 Resilient Communities Fund grant awarded in 2023 by the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The two-year grant allowed YWCA Toronto to purchase necessary equipment and supplies to maintain high standards of infection prevention and control, implement much-needed technological systems and enhance organizational capacity to address any future disruptions to its operations.

"I'm proud to see the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Resilient Communities Fund supporting YWCA Toronto in such practical and lasting ways," said Jessica Bell, MPP for University-Rosedale. "From upgrading infection prevention measures with HEPA filters and PPE to improving communication through new laptops and video conferencing tools, this grant is helping YWCA Toronto deliver services more safely, efficiently, and reliably across the city."

The generous grant enabled the Association to equip multiple program sites with HEPA air purifiers and replacement filters, Rapid Antigen Test kits and hand sanitizers, as well as provide new uniforms for property services staff. YWCA Toronto was also able to purchase new laptops, video conferencing devices and Zoom licenses, promoting better communication across the Association's 15 locations and more than 30 program sites. Looking to the future, the grant also ensures that YWCA Toronto has the flexibility to weather impending disruptions to service delivery.

"This Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation has played such an important role in YWCA Toronto's ability to move forward from the pandemic," said Heather McGregor, Chief Executive Officer of YWCA Toronto. "Thanks to this grant, we were able to purchase the technology and infection prevention and control items necessary for our continued ability to support women, girls and gender diverse people safely, efficiently and effectively. Thanks to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their incredible support."

YWCA Toronto is a leader and collaborator in the provision of feminist, intersectional and transformative shelter and housing, employment and training, leadership and advocacy for women, girls and gender diverse people. Annually, our Association serves close to 13,000 people including program participants of all races, religions, classes, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities and immigration statuses. To learn more about our programs and services, please visit ywcatoronto.org.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested nearly \$105M into 732 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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