

MEDIA RELEASE

March 17, 2023

\$150,000 OTF Grant Provides a Breath of Fresh Air

Toronto, ON – On Friday, March 10, YWCA Toronto celebrated the completion of a project funded by a \$150,000 Resilient Communities Fund grant awarded in 2022 by the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The grant allowed YWCA Toronto to purchase much-needed HEPA air purifiers, as well as infection prevention and control supplies and technology upgrades, to continue to serve women, girls and gender diverse people in need safely and effectively.

“I’m delighted to join YWCA Toronto today in celebrating their successful purchase and installation of HEPA filters and other safety equipment, funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation,” said Jessica Bell, MPP for University-Rosedale. “This grant has made a huge difference in improving the air quality and safety at their sites, where they offer vital services to women, girls and gender diverse people. I want to thank the Ontario Trillium Foundation for supporting YWCA Toronto, an amazing organization that makes our community a better place.”

The generous \$150,000 grant was used to buy 61 HEPA air purifiers and replacement filters to enhance the air quality and safety at YWCA Toronto program sites, emergency shelters, permanent supportive housing buildings and offices. Additionally, this funding enabled the Association to maintain its supply of personal protective equipment and to purchase new computer servers. These purchases have given YWCA Toronto the tools to serve its participants safely and effectively across its 15 locations.

“We are so incredibly thankful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for this Resilient Communities Fund grant,” said Heather M. McGregor, Chief Executive Officer of YWCA Toronto. “The pandemic has been incredibly challenging for the women, girls and gender diverse people who access our services, so to be able to protect them from COVID-19 and give them peace of mind with personal protective equipment and air purifiers is incredibly meaningful to us. Thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their ongoing commitment to communities across the province.”

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 over 13,000 people including trans, Two-Spirit and non-binary community members. To learn more about our programs and services, please visit <https://www.ywca-toronto.org/>.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations celebrates 40 years of grantmaking in Ontario and making a lasting impact in communities. Last year, OTF invested nearly \$209M into 2,042 community projects and partnerships, which included funding for the Government of Ontario’s Community Building Fund. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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