

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YWCA ELM CENTRE RECEIVES DONATION IN HONOUR OF THE LATE JACK LAYTON

December 6 – YWCA Toronto’s new YWCA Elm Centre has received a \$100,000 donation from the Canadian Auto Workers’ Union in honour of Jack Layton and his work establishing the White Ribbon Campaign to end violence against women.

The YWCA Elm Centre, which has just opened, provides 300 affordable apartments to single low-income women, women with children, women living with mental health and addiction issues and families of Aboriginal ancestry.

“Projects like the YWCA’s Elm Centre are crucial to improving women’s socio-economic equality,” said CAW National President Ken Lewenza.

“On the 20th anniversary of the founding of the White Ribbon Campaign by Jack Layton and others, the CAW is honoured to have the opportunity to commemorate the work of Jack and his commitment to ending male violence against women and girls, with this donation to the Elm Centre. The CAW shares Jack’s vision that gender inequality and continuing violence damages our entire society and that men must take the lead in speaking out against and ending gendered violence. Jack leaves an inspiring example of just how to do this,” said Lewenza.

“The CAW has a long history of fighting sexism and working to improve women’s safety and equality. We are proud to receive this wonderful gift in Jack’s name. His work and vision continues to inspire people across Canada to work for equality and social justice,” said Heather McGregor, YWCA Toronto CEO. “We are particularly thrilled that the donation is in honour of the White Ribbon Campaign. The campaign has gone from a small local effort to a global campaign of men and boys working to end gender-based violence against women.”

“The White Ribbon Campaign is thrilled to see this incredible gift on behalf of Jack, commemorating our 20th anniversary, go to such an important project. One of the most important things men can do is to support services for women and children leaving violent situations in their communities, and we are honoured to have partners like the CAW and YWCA Toronto in our shared vision to end violence against women and girls,” said Todd Minerson, ED of the White Ribbon Campaign.

To date, \$15 million dollars has been raised to support the YWCA Elm Centre. Torontonians continue to contribute to the ongoing fundraising efforts. To learn more or donate, visit www.elmcentre.ca.

For more information, contact Sarah Blackstock, YWCA Director of Advocacy & Communications, at 416-892-6845.

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