MEDIA RELEASE

$65,500 OTF Grant from the Ontario Government Strengthens Youth Social-Emotional Development in Toronto's Rexdale Neighborhood

TORONTO, ON (NOVEMBER 10, 2026) – On Tuesday, a representative from Premier Ford's constituency office met with representatives of the YWCA Toronto at the Bergamot Avenue location to hear about the impact of the group's $65,500 Seed grant from the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The grant, awarded in late 2025, was used to provide specialized programming and staff training to support the social-emotional development of youth between the ages of 10-16 living in YWCA Toronto Bergamot Apartments in Toronto's Rexdale neighbourhood.

"From sports and mentorship to specialized resources for young people, YWCA Toronto provides a vital lifeline for youth in our community and across the city," said Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario and MPP for Etobicoke North. "Our government is proud to support the YWCA with a $65,500 investment, ensuring students and parents in Rexdale have the support they need to succeed."

Funds from the year-long grant have been used to help with staffing, as well as the costs involved with hosting workshops, purchasing program materials and equipment, and helping with some administrative costs as well.

"This generous grant allowed us to bring two therapists into our Bergamot Apartments to support youth through various workshop sessions, covering topics related to positive social-emotional development, and allowed us to offer sessions for parents on positive parenting." said Deepa Mattoo, CEO of YWCA Toronto. "I especially appreciated that this grant enabled us to offer specialized training to our staff, deepening their capacity to provide pertinent support to youth."

YWCA Toronto is a leader and collaborator in the provision of feminist, intersectional and transformative programming and advocacy for women, girls and gender diverse people.

Through a range of housing and shelter options, employment and training programs, community support programs, leadership programming for girls and gender diverse youth and family programs, the association supports nearly 13,000 women, girls and gender diverse people each year. To learn more about YWCA Toronto programs and services, visit www.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. In 2025-26, OTF invested nearly $107M into 746 community projects. 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 www.otf.ca to learn more.

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