

Developmental Services Sector Agencies Partner to Receive Employment and Modernization Fund

(TORONTO – Thursday, March 30, 2017) –Community Living Toronto, Community Access to Transportation, Geneva Centre, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Kerry’s Place Autism Services, Salvation Army Lawson Ministries, and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC), has received a \$674,352 grant from the Ministry of Community and Social Services’ Employment and Modernization Fund to fund a comprehensive, city-wide Travel Training Program for people with an Intellectual Disability in Toronto.

The government’s investment of \$674,352 over a two year period will allow the above organizations to work together to:

- Coordinate a 22 month pilot project that will initially train 150 participants free of charge
- Teach people with an intellectual disability how to safely and independently use public transit in Toronto
- Improve the quality of life of people with an intellectual disability by supporting them to better access their communities for work, education, community participation and expand their potential for life experiences
- Provide training that will include in class training covering pedestrian safety skills, public transit use, emergency procedures and a field component with a one to one Travel Training Coordinator to learn a specific transit route of the participants choice in their community

“The TTC is excited to be part of this initiative that will ensure that customers with cognitive disabilities can access the necessary support to use all TTC services – buses, streetcars and subways. Travel training will complement TTC’s investment and objective to make its services fully accessible by 2025.”
Eve Wiggins, Head of TTC Wheel-Trans.

“We are thrilled to be working on this collaborative effort with our sector partners,” says Brad Saunders, CEO, Community Living Toronto “We’re confident this project will enable more individuals with an intellectual disability to travel the city independently and enjoy what their communities have to offer.”

This fund is part of the Ontario government’s \$810 million investment strategy for community and developmental services. It will support the ongoing transformation of the developmental services sector towards greater inclusion and independence for individuals, and to encourage agencies in identifying and providing new approaches and innovative services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities.

To read more about the Employment and Modernization Fund click here:

<https://news.ontario.ca/mcss/en/2017/03/ontario-supporting-greater-employment-opportunities-for-adults-with-developmental-disabilities-in-yo.html>

About Community Living Toronto

Since 1948 Community Living Toronto has been a grassroots leader in developing community-based services and supports for people with an intellectual disability and their family. One of the largest organizations of its kind in Canada, Community Living Toronto provides services and support to over 6,000 people and their families across Toronto. Our mission is to change the lives of people with an intellectual disability by giving them a voice, and supporting their choices where they live, learn, work and play.

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For more information, contact:

Karla Dendrinis, Communications Coordinator

Community Living Toronto

t: 647-501-2075

e-mail: karla.dendrinis@cltoronto.ca