



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **\$65,100 in OTF Grants are Making a Difference at the Shadow Lake Centre**

**Markham, ON – December 18, 2023** – On Monday, MPP Paul Calandra formally congratulated Community Living Toronto (CLTO) on the work happening at its Shadow Lake Centre as a result of receiving two grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, totalling \$65,100. The announcement added to the festive holiday event that CLTO was hosting that day at the Shadow Lake Centre, complete with a visit from Santa. The group received a \$37,700 Capital grant last month and a \$27,400 Resilient Communities Fund grant earlier this year which are helping support CLTO's commitment to empowering the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. These grants are playing a pivotal role in expanding the offerings of the Shadow Lake Centre, a summer camp that fosters growth, inclusivity, and choice.

"In the realm of fostering inclusivity, the collaborative venture between Community Living Toronto and the Ontario Trillium Foundation is a noteworthy example," said Paul Calandra, MPP for Markham-Stouffville. "Since 1948, Community Living Toronto has been a stalwart ally for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The Ontario Trillium foundation's grant validates this commitment, reflecting a shared vision for an inclusive society. At the Shadow Lake Centre, the grant transcends finances, investing in the aspirations of those served. Community Living Toronto's history of innovation and collaboration positions it as a leader in developmental services. This grant extends their impact, making it a crucial step towards a brighter future for individuals with intellectual disabilities – a testament to a commitment to genuine inclusivity and support," added Calandra.

The group's six-month long Resilient Communities Fund grant, awarded earlier this year, has empowered the Shadow Lake Centre to bolster its resilience and sustainability by developing a strategic planning process. Experts will be engaged to address revenue generation needs, ensuring the long-term viability. And last month, OTF awarded CLTO with a one-yea Capital grant to finance the installation of a new concrete floor in the Art Barn at Shadow Lake Centre. This improvement responds to a community need, creating a secure and open space that benefits all guests. With this grant, Community Living Toronto is ready to further its efforts in facilitating many recreational, educational, and skill-building activities at the Shadow Lake Centre.

"We are grateful and very appreciative to have been selected as recipients of the Ontario Trillium Foundation Capital Grant and the Resilient Communities Fund Grant, which supports our commitment to empowering people with intellectual disabilities and fostering a more inclusive society," expressed Brad Saunders, Chief Executive Officer, Community Living Toronto. "The grant will help expand the Shadow Lake Centre's offerings, enabling us to provide even more enriching experiences for our guests."

Community Living Toronto advocates for increased investments in the developmental services sector, and this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant will create meaningful experiences and help people with intellectual disabilities learn and grow in a supportive environment.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation's (OTF) mission is to build healthy and vibrant communities across Ontario. As an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations, last year, OTF invested over \$110M into 1,022 community projects and partnerships. Visit [otf.ca](https://otf.ca) to learn more.

**About Shadow Lake Centre:** Owned and operated by Community Living Toronto since 1965, Shadow Lake Centre offers a year-round facility that provides those with special needs a chance to experience the magic of camp, as well as off-season rental facilities for community groups.



From September to May, Shadow Lake hosts a wide range of community groups looking to spend time in the great outdoors. With two fully furnished houses, seven cabins, a dining hall and a fully equipped, industrial kitchen, Shadow Lake Centre is an ideal location for schools, scouts, guides, yoga retreats, faith groups and more.

Come June, Shadow Lake becomes a bustling home-away-from-home for over 500 guests with special needs and about 100 staff members. The summer camp is self-directed, meaning guests choose the activities they participate in. Parents and caregivers can have peace of mind that their camper will have an adventure all their own. Our enthusiastic staff are dedicated to making the campers' experiences one they will never forget.

**About Community Living Toronto:** Community Living Toronto has been a source of support for people with an intellectual disability and their families since 1948. We offer a wide range of services including respite, person-directed planning, employment supports, supported living, and community-based activities. We are proud to support over 4,000 individuals and their families in 80+ locations across Toronto.

The "community living movement" began with families who wanted their children to live in the community, rather than institutions. Today, we continue to advocate for inclusive communities and support the rights and choices of people with an intellectual disability.

For more information about Community Living Toronto and Shadow Lake Centre, please visit: [www.shadowlakecentre.ca](http://www.shadowlakecentre.ca) or [www.cltoronto.ca](http://www.cltoronto.ca).

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**For media inquiries, please contact:**

Karla Dendinos, Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator  
Community Living Toronto  
[media@cltoronto.ca](mailto:media@cltoronto.ca)