

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$142,000 OTF Grant helps CLPS Recover, Reconnect and Rebuild after Pandemic

Parry Sound, ON – On Friday, Community Living Parry Sound (CLPS) proudly shared the progress of its Recover, Reconnect and Rebuild (3Rs) Project with local MPP Graydon Smith and several key stakeholders and community members, at Canadore College. In 2022, CLPS received a Resilient Communities Fund grant of \$142,000 from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, which supported the organization's effort to improve service delivery following the COVID-19 pandemic, and has been a cornerstone in the project's success to date.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to announce the provincial government's investment of \$142,000 into Community Living Parry Sound," said MPP Smith. "Our government appreciates that COVID presented serious challenges to critical community organizations like CLPS and I'm pleased that these funds have been put to such great use. The provincial government is committed to helping small town and rural communities grow and become stronger and more resilient." Graydon Smith, MPP Parry Sound-Muskoka

Through the support of the OTF Resilient Communities Fund grant, CLPS hired a consultant to take a tailored approach to skill development and capacity building training, both in one-on-one and team settings with staff and leaders alike. As staff and leaders build resiliency and capacity to effectively navigate change, the organization's ability to deliver the best possible support to people with intellectual disabilities improves exponentially. This, in turn, is reflected in the well-being of the community as it becomes more inclusive and vibrant.

The 3Rs project takes a multi-pillared approach to CLPS's pandemic recovery efforts. Two of the pillars, Reconnect and Rebuild, focus on the hybridization of CLPS support services and continue the work that was started in 2020/21 - integrating technology and virtual support into the services provided to people with intellectual disabilities. The third pillar, Recover, is where the majority of effort and resources have been directed because it begged a deeper understanding as to why resistance to service hybridization was initially experienced across the organization. Uncovering the answer – widespread change fatigue and staff burnout – led to the realization that the vision for CLPS's future was merely a pipedream without an energized workforce. 3Rs shifts the organization's pandemic recovery efforts to focus on the well-being of staff.

"The impact of this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant cannot be overstated," said Tricia Bain, CLPS. "The Resilient Communities Fund has allowed for CLPS to not only transform and improve its service delivery, but as well to eliminate the barriers that were hindering this progress, and help the workforce heal from the traumatic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thankful to the OTF for supporting of our organization through our pandemic recovery efforts."

CLPS supports people who have an intellectual disability to live full, meaningful lives in their community. Through partnerships, innovation and education, CLPS works alongside people supported to actualize their goals, which strengthens the community as a whole.

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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