



MEDIA RELEASE
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EXPANSION LAUNCH OF THE ACT 4 YOUTH INITIATIVE

RICHMOND HILL – On Friday, Community Living York South announced the expansion of the ACT 4 Youth Initiative. Local MPPs Reza Moridi and Gila Martow, as well as Deputy Mayor of Richmond Hill, Vito Spatafora, and Arthur Field, an Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) volunteer, were in attendance and officially congratulated the organization on receiving a three-year \$459,100 Grow grant from OTF to help expand the program into new communities in York Region.

"Our government is proud to support programs like the ACT 4 Youth initiative, which helps youth with intellectual disabilities achieve independence. This program has seen considerable success in Markham, and I am pleased to see it expanding into other York Region communities, including Richmond Hill," said the Hon. Reza Moridi, MPP for Richmond Hill.

"I am pleased to see the government work with community organizations to support youth with special needs. We are lucky to now live in a society where friends, relatives and neighbors of all abilities are valued," said Thornhill MPP Gila Martow.

This initiative will help youth between the ages 20-29 with intellectual disabilities get the support they need for a smooth transition into the community after completing their post-secondary education. Building on the success of a proven model in the City of Markham, the ACT 4 Youth initiative is expanding to include more York Region communities. It will work together with community programs, grass root initiatives, and local networks to achieve streamlined access to services for youth with intellectual disabilities that promote independence and employment.

"We are extremely excited to start the expansion of the Act 4 Youth Initiative and much of community is sharing in our excitement. Heartfelt thank you to OTF for funding the initiative and believing in our vision", said Director of Community Development Ritu Singarayer.

Additional information on the program can be found on the Community Living York South website, www.communitylivingyorksouth.ca.

An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada's largest granting foundations. With a budget of over \$136 million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities. www.otf.ca

If you would like more information about the expansion or the launch, please contact Ritu Singarayer at 905-294-4971 ext 523 or email at rsingarayer@communitylivingyorksouth.ca