

YOUTH PROGRAM CELEBRATES \$152,800 OTF GRANT FROM ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

Windsor, ON – On Wednesday, local MPPs Andrew Dowie and Lisa Gretzky met with the team at The Windsor Residence for Young Men (WRYM) to hear more about \$152,800 Resilient Communities Fund grant they received from the provincial government’s Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), which funded crucial services for youth experiencing homelessness over the past two years.

The \$152,800 grant allowed WRYM to hire staff to establish a system navigation support and life skill teaching for homeless youth. The project’s goal was to increase a young person’s resiliency and self reliance and help them overcome issues caused by the pandemic.

WRYM reports that over 50 homeless youth were assisted in the System Navigation project, with the majority being able to find some form of sustainable housing upon exiting their services. While living at WRYM and participating in the System Navigation project, youth were able to continue their school and employment goals, get connected to services, overcome the “root issues” that contributed to their homelessness, and find permanent housing in the private market or back with family.

Quotes

“I am heartened to see that OTF is yet again supporting an organization dedicated to serving some of the most vulnerable of our community. The WRYM continues to impress me with its invaluable work with youth who identify as male as they leave homelessness behind and rebuild their lives. These youth are often victims of abuse, neglect, or family violence. Some are in recovery from substance use disorders. WRYM provides supports which help them overcome those obstacles to live a fulfilling life. The award of this Resilient Communities Fund grant was well-deserved.”

—Lisa Gretzky, MPP for Windsor West

“The path to recovery from major setbacks can feel overwhelming and unclear. I’m delighted that the Ontario Trillium Foundation is supporting this investment at the Windsor Residence for Young Men to help accelerate and simplify the new start needed to navigate supports in our community.”

—Andrew Dowie, MPP for Windsor—Tecumseh

"It is important to remember that these young men are victims of violence, abuse, and neglect of the worse kind. Over 85% of our clients reported being victims of family violence and abuse last year, and with the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s help we were able to provide these young people with the life-skills, housing, and supports needed to ensure a successful transition into adulthood. WRYM has to be the healthy family they don’t have.”

—Jason Weinberg, Executive Director, The Windsor Residence for Young Men

About The Windsor Residence for Young Men

The Windsor Residence for Young Men is helping youth overcome homelessness and build new lives by providing Transitional Housing, Aftercare, and Outreach services for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness between the ages 16-24 who identify as male. If you or anyone you

know is in need of assistance, you would like to donate or learn more, please see their website, www.wrym.ca.

About the Ontario Trillium Foundation

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested more than \$110M into 1,044 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. 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 otf.ca to learn more.

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