

MEDIA RELEASE

December 12, 2017

\$71,700 OTF Grant Helps Children with Failing Hearts engage in more active Lifestyle

Toronto - On Tuesday, the Cardiac Health Foundation of Canada and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario welcomed members of the Public to the Atrium at The Hospital for Sick Children to launch an initiative that will assist children with cardiomyopathy to engage in a more active lifestyle. John Fraser MPP Ottawa South and Parliamentary Assistant to Minister of Health & Long-Term Care and an Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Review Team Member Mona ElSayeh were on hand to congratulate CHFC and CHEO members in learning more about the work of these organizations.

"Our government is committed to providing all Ontarians with access to the highest quality healthcare," said John Fraser, MPP for Ottawa South and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. "The Ontario Trillium Foundation grant allows the partnership between CHEO and the Cardiac Health Foundation to implement innovative initiatives that help children with cardiomyopathy reach their full potential. Thank you to CHEO, SickKids, Cardiac Health Foundation and the Ontario Trillium Foundation for improving the lives of everyone across the province."

"I would like to congratulate the Cardiac Health Foundation of Canada and the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) on the launch of their program to help children with cardiomyopathy lead more active lifestyles," said Mike Colle MPP for Eglinton – Lawrence. "The initiative to increase the capacity for physical fitness in children with cardiomyopathy is a vital step forward."

This grant will help children with failing hearts that are often restricted from physical activity and discouraged from engaging in active lifestyles in the belief that it will preserve their decreasing heart function. This innovative project will measure the physical activity participation of these children, the barriers they face, and the amount of exercise their hearts can support. This Grant and the Results we learn will enable future initiatives by CHFC and CHEO aimed at promoting healthy active lifestyles to children with failing hearts.

Leo DeZotto President, CHFC stated "As a pioneer organization with Dr. Terry Kavanagh revolutionizing cardiac rehab for adults throughout North America by taking 8 heart attack patients to compete in the Boston Marathon; we are now partnering with Canada's Leading Paediatric Children's Hospitals to positively influence the lives of children with congenital heart disease."

To learn more about CHFC go to www.cardiachealth.ca or CHEO at www.cheori.org/halo

An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) with a budget of over \$136 million, awards grants to some 1,000 projects annually to build a healthy and vibrant Ontario.

www.otf.ca

-30-

For more information, please contact:

Barbara Kennedy, Executive Director
Cardiac Health Foundation of Canada

Bkennedy@cardiachealth.ca

416-730-8299