

For Immediate Release

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PROVINCE-WIDE UNITED WAYS RECEIVE \$594,800 IN SUPPORT FROM ONTARIO TRILLIUM FOUNDATION

\$594,800 funding to have high impact on local communities

Stratford—The Ontario Trillium Foundation announced a \$594,800 grant to support a province-wide partnership involving 17 of the smallest United Ways in Ontario.

The program, ***Community Matters: Engaging Community, Building Community***, will enable these 17 United Ways to build capacity and serve their local communities better through coordinated strategic planning.

Judith Baril, Executive-Director of United Way of Leeds Grenville, was instrumental in preparing the grant application. “This is a fantastic opportunity for all of the smaller United Ways to share, learn and envision strategically how we can best serve our local communities. We couldn’t be more excited about this support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.”

The announcement was made by Ontario Trillium Foundation Board Chair Helen Burstyn and CEO Robin Cardozo at the collaborative’s inaugural meeting which took place in Toronto.

“We’re delighted to invest \$594,800 in an excellent project that will have high impact across the province,” said Burstyn. “And of course, we’re very pleased to support the United Way movement which, like our Foundation, has the privilege and responsibility to support a large diversity of needs.”

The 17 United Ways will be mentored by the largest United Ways in Ontario. They will take on a series of activities including community consultation, building issue-based approaches to priority setting, strategizing on volunteer engagement and collaborating with other funders.

“In our local community, our priority will be to address outreach to rural areas to ensure the residents there will have an equal opportunity for input,” said Ellen Balmain, Executive Director of UW Perth County. “We’re thrilled to be doing this in partnership with 16 counterpart United Ways across the province.”

As part of the funding package, the United Way of Perth County will hire a part-time coordinator to work on the project over the next 2 years.

The 17 United Ways include:

Huron United Way	United Way of Oxford County
Northumberland United Way	United Way of Perth County
Porcupine United Way	United Way of Sault Ste. Marie
United Way of Bruce-Grey	United Way of South Niagara
United Way of Elgin-St. Thomas	United Way of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry
United Way of Greater Fort Erie	United Way of the City of Kawartha Lakes
United Way of Leeds and Grenville	United Way of the South Georgian Bay
United Way of Lanark County	United Way/Centreaide of the Upper Ottawa Valley
United Way of Milton	

The United Way of Perth County has been serving the local community since 1959. In 2004, it raised **\$725,241** to support over 20 community-based agencies.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario' s charity casino initiative. The Foundation allocates grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts and culture, environment, human and social services, and sports and recreation sectors. For more information, visit www.trilliumfoundation.org.

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