

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

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## **Children's Centre Foundation Thunder Bay Launches Mental Health Initiative Thanks to \$100,000 OTF Grant**

**Thunder Bay** - Children's Centre Foundation Thunder Bay was thrilled to launch "Project LEAD", a new mental health education initiative geared to children, youth and families, thanks to a \$100,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). Michael Gravelle, MPP for Thunder Bay – Superior North, Bill Mauro, MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, joined Mayor Lynn Peterson in congratulating the Children's Centre Foundation Thunder Bay at their public launch.

"I'm delighted that the Ontario Trillium Foundation has provided funding for this awareness campaign that will help to keep our community informed about the issues surrounding child and youth mental health issues," said MPP Gravelle. "Thanks to this grant, the Children's Centre Foundation Thunder Bay is 'leading' the way in our community on this important initiative."

"Our government recognizes that a healthy foundation is necessary for children and youth to reach their full potential," said MPP Mauro. "This grant will greatly assist the Children's Centre Foundation Thunder Bay in addressing youth mental health issues in our community." In June 2007, OTF providing funding to help develop and implement an a

In June 2007, OTF provided funding to help develop and implement an awareness campaign that engages youth as leaders in the community to address child and youth mental health issues. "We are thrilled to help youth empower themselves to address mental health issues," said Children's Centre Foundation Thunder Bay Executive Director, Tom Walters. "It is critical to ensure that the youth's voices are heard. This is a great opportunity for youth to be engaged and impact the community, and we are very pleased to have this opportunity from the Ontario Trillium Foundation".

Established in November 2004, the Children's Centre Foundation Thunder Bay works to improve the mental health of children, youth and families in the City and District of Thunder Bay through various public education and prevention initiatives, as well as improving access to services. Project LEAD (Leadership through Engaging youth, Awareness of resources and Developing partnerships) has a variety of components to benefit the community, including a published mental health education resource inventory, an active youth group, peer to peer teaching, mental health information materials, a public awareness campaign, resources at local libraries, and valuable partnerships with a number of community organizations and volunteers.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For 25 years, we have supported the growth and vitality of communities across the province. OTF continues to strengthen the capacity of the volunteer sector through investments in community-based initiatives. For more information, please visit [www.trilliumfoundation.org](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org)

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