



## **Ontario government has withdrawn funding to major community grantmaker**

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For immediate release

The Ontario government has withdrawn a promised \$15 million to Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) – money the foundation would have granted out to community projects this winter. Funding that would have strengthened communities has severely been reduced – such as funding to support a local festival, provide programming to artists and the public alike, create jobs, and overall provide more opportunities for local organizations to serve people in our community.

OTF grants are given to nonprofits, First Nations, and small municipalities to implement important community projects and initiatives. The York Region Arts Council (YRAC) is concerned this large cut will cancel and delay important planned projects and is asking the government to reverse its decision.

OTF has made significant and impactful positive contributions to organizations across York Region, and YRAC would not be able to accomplish its work and impact the community without the support of OTF. One of the challenges nonprofits' face is that there are relatively few funding organizations to turn to for support and/or to pool resources in our community. This is just one of the reasons why OTF funding is so important to these stakeholders," says Samantha Wainberg, executive director at the York Region Arts Council.

### **OTF funding is vital because:**

OTF funding strengthens local economies and community services

- OTF provides critical investments in community services and facilities across this province – to organizations such as food banks, sports facilities, arts organizations and social service providers. These funds contribute to building strong communities, from Windsor to Dryden, and from Niagara to Perth.
- Not counting programs it administers for other ministries, OTF invested \$100 million directly in the community economy in 2016-2017.
- Through its Seed, Grow, and Collective Impact streams, OTF funded 469 projects in 2016-2017 that will impact over 750,000 Ontarians over three years.
- OTF's 203 capital grants in 2016-2017 invested \$22.4 million into non-profits, First Nations, and small municipalities.

OTF funding creates jobs

- OTF's grants support job creation in local communities, hiring people to improve community health and well-being. These are meaningful jobs for both the employees and program participants.
- OTF's capital grants in particular also support the purchasing of goods from local suppliers and the hiring of local contractors. These are spin-off benefits for the local economy that will be reduced with OTF's funding cut.

OTF meets real community needs

- OTF is the only province-wide grant system that covers the entire province and all parts of the non-profit sector (like arts, sports, environment, and social services).
- Because granting decisions are made by regional volunteer committees, grants are highly responsive to what communities need.

**Additional Information:**

To learn what OTF has funded in your area recently, view the grants search tool:

<http://otf.ca/our-impact/grants-search-tool>

Groups of local volunteers help OTF make funding decisions. The list of volunteers involved in last year's funding round can be found in the most recent OTF annual report:

[http://otf.ca/sites/default/files/annual\\_report\\_16-17\\_en.pdf#page=57](http://otf.ca/sites/default/files/annual_report_16-17_en.pdf#page=57)

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