

Peel Children's Centre Thrilled About \$2.1 Billion Funding Announcement for Mental Health and Addictions Services

Mississauga – Peel Children's Centre (PCC) is thrilled that the provincial government has announced it is committing an additional \$2.1 billion in funding over four years to improve care, reduce waitlists and increase access to mental health and addictions services across Ontario. The new funding would bring the provincial government's investment in mental health and addictions care to \$17 billion over the next four years, with a goal of making it easier for Ontarians to find the services they need at every stage of life, when and where they need them.

A new funding allocation model for community-based child and youth mental health (CYMH) service providers will be introduced in 2018-19. Additionally, the province has announced it will increase the base funding to core service providers to make mental health services available to more children and youth and significantly reduce wait times.

The plan prioritizes the unique mental health needs of Ontario's LGBTQ2S, racialized and Indigenous children and youth, as well as transitional aged youth (ages 18 – 25), for whom the funding will enrich targeted support. Early intervention and prevention is another area of focus, with the government pledging \$74.4 million over four years to support improved early intervention, screening and diagnostic services.

"As the Lead Agency for child and youth mental health services in Peel, we are thrilled about the provincial government's plan to increase funding to our sector," said PCC CEO Humphrey Mitchell. "We look forward to working with our service partners in Peel and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services to ensure that this funding results in the best possible outcomes for children, youth and families in our community."

"The Peel community has been historically underfunded in terms of services for children, youth and families. The government's new plan acknowledges our community's high rate of growth and changing needs," added PCC Board President Rudy Riske. "We are grateful for the additional funding and we look forward to increasing our capacity to provide help and hope to Peel families."

Other areas to receive increased funding under Ontario's plan include secondary schools, colleges and universities; caregivers; supportive housing facilities; crisis response services; and addictions treatment services.

Since 1985, Peel Children's Centre has provided free and confidential mental health services to over 4,300 children, youth and their families annually. In 2014, as part of its Moving on Mental Health (MOMH) initiative, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services named PCC the Lead Agency for child and youth mental health services in the Region of Peel. As Lead Agency,



PCC is responsible for ensuring that core services are delivered in the Peel Service Area, and that Peel's community-based sector works together with healthcare providers, schools and other organizations to support the mental health needs of children, youth and families. To learn more about PCC, please visit www.peelcc.org. To learn more about PCC's role as Lead Agency and the MOMH strategy, please visit www.peelcc.org/en/lead-agency.

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