



For immediate release
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Peel Regional Police Officers Celebrate Mothers, Raise Funds for Peel Children's Centre

On Saturday, May 12th, Peel Regional Police (PRP) Sgt. Jessica Roselli and Sgt. Leslee Whidden welcomed 140 guests to the 5th Annual Mother's Day Brunch in support of Peel Children's Centre (PCC). The sold out event raised \$13,000 and was held at the Peel Regional Police Association's banquet hall in Brampton. To date, the Mother's Day Brunch has raised more than \$45,000 for PCC's programs and services

Sergeants Roselli and Whidden first became aware of PCC when they worked in PRP's Special Victims Unit. In this role, they worked closely with PCC's Child Witness program, which supports children and youth who have been victims of, or witnesses to, a crime. Over time, Roselli and Whidden gained a greater appreciation of the connection between mental health service providers like PCC and law enforcement, and they decided they wanted to do even more to support PCC. "Being a police officer is about more than fighting crime," says Roselli. "It's about giving back, too." Thus, the Mother's Day Brunch was born.

Guests at this year's event enjoyed a delicious brunch, bid on silent auction items, and were serenaded by a string trio. Rana El-Ali shared her story of dealing with serious mental health challenges, including post-traumatic stress disorder, with the help of youth counselling services, illustrating the positive impact of fundraised dollars on our community. "Before counselling, I saw myself as a mirror that someone had destroyed," she told guests. "Through counselling, I learned to accept myself and appreciate the cracks in the mirror. I now see them as beautiful, intricate pieces that are a reflection of me."

PCC extends its heartfelt thanks to the Sergeants Roselli and Whidden, as well as to the sponsors, vendors, volunteers, and guests who helped make this year's Mother's Day Brunch a success. In addition to celebrating mothers, the event celebrates Peel's strong community, and PCC is proud to partner with PRP to build a caring community working together for children and youth.

PCC is a fully accredited, not-for-profit children's mental health agency. Since 1985, PCC has provided free and confidential mental health services to over 4,000 children, youth and their families annually. In 2014, PCC was named Lead Agency for the Region of Peel as part of Moving on Mental Health (MOMH), the Provincial Government's action plan to transform child and youth mental health services in Ontario. To learn more about PCC, please visit our website, www.peelcc.org. To learn more about MOMH and PCC's role as Lead Agency, please visit www.peelcc.org/en/lead-agency.

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