

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

April 24, 2009

**Women Shelters Across Ontario to Benefit from \$248,200 Grant**  
**MPP Carol Mitchell Announces Two Year Grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation**

**Goderich** – On Friday morning, local MPP Carol Mitchell formally announced that a province-wide research project is being launched thanks to a \$248,200 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The newly-formed Ontario Shelter Research Committee is now conducting the first comprehensive review of the services provided by 96 shelters across the province for women and children fleeing abusive situations. When completed, the findings will enable a better understanding of the shelters' roles and contributions within the larger network of community services.

"MPP quote"

The research will be undertaken in two phases by a Committee comprising experts in the delivery of services to women and children fleeing emotional and physical abuse led by Michele Hansen, Executive Director for the Women's Shelter Second Stage Housing and Counselling Services of Huron, as well as researchers from The University of Western Ontario, Drs. Nadine Wathen, Marilyn Ford-Gilboe, and Roma Harris, as well as Barb MacQuarrie, Community Director for the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children.

**"Quote from Ontario Shelter Research Committee** "We are very encouraged by the generous support we've received from the Trillium Foundation. The findings from this project will assist us to identify the key interventions provided by the province's women's shelters, and to map their roles within the larger social service sector. Only with this foundation will it be possible to examine the true impact of their work on behalf of abused women and their children."

Funds from the grant will be used over the next two years to hire a Project Manager and Assistant to help with the coordination of this project. As well, the grant will be used to cover the significant costs of travel that are essential to a project with this geographic scope. The study will involve a series of consultations across Ontario with shelter staff, shelter clients, and others in the social service sector to review and categorize the types of services being offered, to examine the roles shelters are perceived to play, relative to other agencies, in support of abused women and their children, and to identify the expected outcomes associated with these roles.

**Additional information**

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is an agency of the Government of Ontario. For over 25 years, the Foundation has 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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