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**ROBERTS**  
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CENTRE

## MEDIA RELEASE

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CHILDREN'S  
MENTAL HEALTH  
CENTRE

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POUR ENFANTS

### **\$545,000 OTF Grant lends Parents a Helping Hand**

**Ottawa** – On Wednesday, the Roberts/Smart Center welcomed members of the public to the announcement of an expansion of their Parent Group Therapy Program. Local MPP Yasir Naqvi and OTF Grant Review Team member Ruth MacKenzie were on hand to congratulate the Centre's members and hear more about how this increased support will help Parents and families in the community.

"The Roberts/Smart Centre is a vital community resource in our city. The Centre will successfully use the \$545,000 Ontario's Trillium Foundation grant to expand the Collaborative Problem Solving parent group workshops across Eastern Ontario," said The Honourable Yasir Naqvi, MPP for Ottawa Centre. "This program supports the positive development of children and youth facing barriers and mental health challenges, as well as the parents and guardians that care for them. This funding will directly impact almost 450 people in our community and help countless 'high risk' children and youth find a new, more positive path."

In addition to providing the group therapy sessions to parents, a Roberts/Smart Centre youth worker will be available to support the parents in the community as they implement the techniques they are learning. The Centre uses an evidence based approach called Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) which was developed by Think:kids at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

"The impact of this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant cannot be underestimated," said Katherine Neff, Executive Director of the Roberts/Smart Centre. "This Grant allows the Centre to offer this unique and highly successful program to families and youth with mental health needs, who otherwise would not have this opportunity."

The Roberts/Smart Centre is committed to serving the youth and their families with mental health needs in our community. By expanding the Parent Group Therapy Program beyond the current capacity, the Centre will have a positive impact on this population. If you wish to learn more about the Centre and its' commitment to the community, visit our website at:

[www.robertssmartcentre.com](http://www.robertssmartcentre.com)

The leading grantmaking foundation in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities: [www.otf.ca](http://www.otf.ca)

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