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WATERLOO
COMMUNITY
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**COMMUNITY
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OF CANADA**



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Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation and partners fund social purpose organizations with \$236,000 to support recovery efforts and prepare for investment

KITCHENER, ON — Today, Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation (KWCF) and partners have awarded \$236,000 in funding to 9 social purpose organizations throughout Waterloo Region, Guelph, Stratford, Perth South and Centre Wellington, as part of the Government of Canada's Investment Readiness Program (IRP). These organizations are working to create meaningful jobs, strengthen the charitable and non-profit sector, and address social challenges, including the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the assistance of the IRP funding, they will be better prepared to receive investment, including through the Government of Canada's Social Finance Fund.

A high volume of applications were received for this highly competitive program. A list of social purpose organizations funded through the second round of the IRP is included below:

- Brain Injury Association Waterloo-Wellington
- Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario - Savoury Hub
- Fan/Joy
- Huron Perth Community Development Corporation
- LAUNCH Waterloo
- The Literacy Group of Waterloo Region
- To Thrive Together Sustainable Living
- Union: Sustainable Development Co-operative
- unlearn. inc.

“The IRP is helping social purpose organizations explore, grow and flourish across the country, empowering them to develop along the path from great ideas to investment-ready,” says Elizabeth Heald, President & CEO, Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation. “As a Regional Partner for IRP, we are pleased to have been able to continue to lead this initiative with such amazing partners including four other community foundations (Cambridge & North Dumfries, Centre Wellington Community Foundation, Guelph Community Foundation, Stratford Perth Community Foundation) and four local organizations driving social change (Communitech, GreenHouse, Lyle S. Hallman Foundation, and Region of Waterloo).”

“The pervasive and wide-ranging effects of the global pandemic has placed Canadian communities in crisis. Recovery efforts must be transformative to meet the test of an uncertain, and at the same time, hopeful and prosperous future. Philanthropy will play a critical role in this future as we consider new ways of deploying our capital and engaging communities. Our investments should aim to alleviate the systemic factors perpetuating inequality, with an eye to a sustainable and inclusive economy for all Canadians. Consequently, social entrepreneurs and impact investors form critical infrastructure to lead our recovery efforts and meet the urgency of the moment. Our work with the IRP is about meeting this moment,” says Andrew Chunilall, CEO of Community Foundations of Canada, a national partner in the Investment Readiness Program.

Social purpose organizations strengthen local economies while giving back and creating more resilient and sustainable communities. The IRP also creates and advances new earned revenue possibilities for charities and non-profits during this challenging time. For these reasons, IRP has a key role to play in pandemic recovery and also in moving Canada towards the UN's Sustainable

Development Goals. They promote prosperity while protecting people and our planet.

For more information on the IRP, including viewing a full list of organizations that received funding in the first and second round through this Regional Partnership, visit www.kwcf.ca/irp.

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About the Program

Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) is a partner in the Investment Readiness Program (IRP) which helps deliver capital from the Government of Canada to social purpose organizations preparing to successfully participate in the social finance market.

About Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation

Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation (KWCF) is focused on Granting, Impact Investing and Convening to make measurable and sustainable impacts in Waterloo Region. We collaborate with partners to develop forward-thinking innovative solutions and seize opportunities to meet current and future needs of our community. We enable people, companies and organizations to do more good by making it easy for Fundholders and Donors to give and invest, and for charities to receive money. Gifts are directed to KWCF's endowed funds that drive positive change in two ways: through grants and impact investments that deliver both financial returns as well as positive social and environmental outcomes. We work with our Fundholders to distribute the income generated through grants to support a wide range of charitable causes within our community. As a leading community-building organization we also work to amplify voices and issues of importance by convening conversations and sharing information, while approaching our work with an equity mindset.

www.kwcf.ca

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