



For Immediate Release
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**MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT'S INVESTMENT KEEPING RESIDENTS OF
TORONTO ACTIVE**

Communities In Action Fund Investing Even More Into Ontario Communities In 2007-08

TORONTO – The McGuinty government is providing \$74,000 to two local organizations through an additional \$2.5 million from the 2007-08 Communities in Action Fund (CIAF) to increase physical activity and sport participation rates in Toronto, Health and Long-Term Care Minister and MPP for Toronto-Centre Rosedale George Smitherman announced today on behalf of Minister of Health Promotion Jim Watson.

Highlights of the grant(s) include:

Scadding Court Community Centre

A grant of \$24,000 has been awarded to Scadding Court Community Centre for a pilot program which will provide 105 at risk youth with the opportunity to try different sports including: sailing, skiing/snowboarding, tennis, fishing and rock climbing. It will also provide recreation leadership opportunities for an additional 18 youth.

"We look forward to being able to offer young people from a marginalized neighbourhood the opportunity to get out of their community and to experience activities that are economically and socially out of reach for many of them," said Susan Burkhardt, Director of Development & Community Engagement. "Along with letting youth diversify their interests and apply their skills in new and challenging situations, this project will help to broaden the segment of the population being served by existing sport and recreation opportunities."

Toronto Community and Culture Centre

A second grant of \$50,000 has been awarded to the Toronto Community and Culture Centre. The centre provides a wide variety of community and educational services to new and long-term immigrants, especially in the Mandarin community, in order to facilitate their settlement and integration into Canadian society.

"To encourage community members to participate in physical activity, especially for youth and seniors, we will deliver the "Moving for Health in Community" project, a physical activity program," said Simon Zhong, Executive Director. "The main physical activity for the program will be traditional Chinese dance. The dancing will incorporate elements of Tai Chi, and utilize drums, fans, and swords in performance. Thus, while being physically active, students and seniors will enjoy learning about and participating in an interesting aspect of Chinese culture."

While the project is targeted at the Mandarin community in Toronto, it is open to all who wish to get physically active by learning about Chinese culture.



George Smitherman, MPP

Toronto Centre-Rosedale

“CIAF grants are making it easier for residents in this community to become more active,” said Smitherman. “These grants will provide new and enhanced sport, recreation and physical activity programs that will improve the health and fitness of local families.”

The Communities In Action Fund, now in its fourth year is a \$5 million program that has awarded more than \$23 million to over 700 organizations at the local and provincial levels and has already benefited approximately 1 million people. In March 2007, the Ontario government announced that the provincial budget will allocate an additional \$2.5 million - for a total of \$7.5 million - to the 2007-2008 fund. As a result of the additional funding, the Ministry of Health Promotion was able to accept a second round of applications.

The Communities In Action Fund is a key initiative of Active2010 – Ontario’s sport and physical activity strategy - and Ontario’s Action Plan for Healthy Eating and Active Living. By improving opportunities for community sport and physical activity, CIAF helps to remove barriers to participation for children and youth, low-income families, aboriginal people, older adults, women and girls, visible/ethnic minorities and people with disabilities. Visit www.mhp.gov.on.ca/english/sportandrec/fund.asp for details.

“Through CIAF, we partner with organizations that have already helped thousands of Ontarians to develop more healthy and active lifestyles,” said Watson. “I am looking forward to seeing the great work that organizations across the province will do in 2007-08 to make Ontarians even healthier.”

For more information on CIAF, please visit: www.mhp.gov.on.ca

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