



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Date**

## **\$98,700 Resilient Communities Fund Grant Supports ABLE2**

**Ottawa, ON** – ABLE2: Support for People with Disabilities is pleased to announce that they are a recipient of a \$98,700 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). This grant was awarded in 2021 and will help ABLE2 rebuild in the aftermath of COVID-19.

“ABLE2 is a community leader in building an inclusive community where all people are seen as able, important and valid,” says Ottawa Centre MPP Joel Harden. “The staff and volunteers of ABLE2 have done incredible work over the pandemic in empowering people with disabilities and their families and I am excited to see how they continue this work with the help from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.”

COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted people with disabilities. As less time is being spent out in the community, isolation – already endemic for many with disabilities – is growing to alarming proportions. This has compelled ABLE2 to look at new ways to fulfill its mission to empower people with disabilities to build lives of meaning and joy. The agency is looking to include educational and social opportunities for people with disabilities and their families aimed at reducing mental health crisis by connecting people to their communities and resources.

ABLE2’s Matching program is dependent on volunteers to help reduce isolation for people with disabilities through intentional friendships. For many who are matched (Friend), these virtual interactions or phone calls from their volunteer (Ally) is their only social interaction. Volunteer recruitment has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, and OTF funding will allow the agency to run a digital volunteer recruitment campaign as well as online training modules.

“The impact of this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant will be significant for ABLE2,” said Heather Lacey, Executive Director. “We are really grateful as this funding will enable us to increase our ability to access financial resources and develop new alternative sources of revenues. It will also help us to adapt or re-imagine the delivery of our Matching Program to meet the needs of the community and volunteers.”

Further information on ABLE2’s programs can be found at [www.able2.org](http://www.able2.org).

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada’s leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112M was invested into 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario’s non-profit sector. In 2020/21, OTF supported Ontario’s economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit [otf.ca](http://otf.ca) to learn more.

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