

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$263,400 OTF Grant Helps ESWO Improve Social and Emotional Skills in Children Living with Epilepsy

London – On Saturday, March 3rd, Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario (ESWO) welcomed members of the public to its Epilepsy Information Day Conference. Local MPPs Deb Matthews and Teresa Armstrong were on hand to congratulate ESWO and hear more about how its new School to Community Program will make a difference in the community.

"With this investment, 120 children living with Epilepsy in Southwestern Ontario will have the opportunity to develop new skills and build a strong foundation for success later in life," said Deb Matthews, MPP for London North Centre.



Pictured from left to right: MPP Teresa Armstrong, Michelle Franklin (ESWO), Mary Secco (ESWO), MPP Deb Matthews

"I am so glad to see Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario and their clients benefit from this Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant and implement their School Community Program," said Teresa Armstrong, MPP for London-Fanshawe. "Social supports for children with epilepsy are integral part of learning to live with epilepsy and thrive. This program will play an important role in helping kids feel confident and succeed in school, and set them up for success for the rest of their lives."

Thanks to the support of \$263,400 over three years from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), ESWO's School to Community Program will support children living with epilepsy in their school environments. The program will work to improve social and emotional skills in children living with epilepsy, to foster responsible individuals who are confident, resilient and adaptable. School to Community will be delivered in Windsor-Essex, Chatham-Kent and Sarnia-Lambton areas.

"Early intervention can improve the social and emotional skills of children with epilepsy and change their future, but this can only be achieved through community collaboration, which is the goal of 'School to Community'," said Michelle Franklin, CEO of Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario. "If we continue to focus solely on treating the seizures we will not solve many of the social difficulties in adulthood as seizure remission does not reliably enhance social outcomes."

Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario enhances the lives of people who are affected by epilepsy and seizure disorders by providing a network of services that educate, support, and build community awareness. For more information, please visit the website at: www.epilepsysupport.ca

An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada's largest granting foundations. With a budget of over \$136 million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities. www.otf.ca

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For more information, please contact:

Bailey Tschirnow, Outreach and Events Director
Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario
519-433-4073
bailey@epilepsyswo.ca