

Voice Found Receives \$110,800 OTF Grant

Ottawa, ON – In June 2021, Voice Found was awarded an Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund grant in the amount of \$110,800.00 to help them to rebuild and recover from impacts of COVID-19. This funding provided Voice Found with the ability to engage the services of subject matter experts to aid in planning, testing, and building evidence-based training and support for vulnerable and high-risk populations who are at risk of, being, or who have been trafficked and/or sexually exploited.

“What great news to learn that Voice Found will benefit from financial support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation! Voice Found’s mission is well worth supporting. I am glad that the money received will contribute to help them continue to do the important work they do within our community. Child sex abuse and commercial sexual exploitation have devastating effects on the victims, and organizations like Voice Found are an absolutely essential part of their recovery. It brings me hope to see that their work is valued through this funding,” said Lucille Collard, MPP for Ottawa—Vanier.

Voice Found is a survivor-led organization that works with a vulnerable and high-risk population who are at risk of, being or who have been trafficked and/or sexually exploited. Service delivery to this population has always been at capacity but with the onset of COVID, the organization was struggling to build its training and education practice which saw a 98% decrease. In addition, they knew it was important to reimagine service delivery and ensure the safety of the people they serve.

“We provide services to people who are extremely vulnerable and COVID exasperated their already high risk of suicidal ideation, danger from traffickers, addiction, and the impacts of trauma,” said Cynthia Bland, Founder and CEO of Voice Found. “This funding has provided us with the opportunity to develop protocols to ensure safety of participants and implement strategies for managing online groups. We are delighted that we have been able to develop and deliver new trauma-informed training as well as develop skills and create a plan to launch new training that will help build capacity in the province.”

Voice Found is a leader in delivering lived-experience services for survivors. Their comprehensive programs include specialized healthcare, mental health and peer support, along with emergency and ongoing support for those who have been sexually exploited. They share best practices with other service providers through training and education.

More information is available on their website at www.voicefound.ca

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) mission is to build healthy and vibrant communities across Ontario. As an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations, last year, OTF invested nearly \$209M into 2,042 community projects and partnerships, which included funding for the Government of Ontario's Community Building Fund. Since 2020, OTF has supported Ontario's economic recovery by helping non-profit organizations rebuild and recover from the impacts of COVID-19. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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Organization Contact for Media Inquiries:

Cynthia Bland, Founder and CEO, Voice Found

cynthia@voicefound.ca

613-282-7424