



A Dream Realised for Communities in East Toronto

Ontario Government announces capital funding grant for Tropicana Community Services

TORONTO, ON, August 31, 2011 – Communities in East Toronto will soon have access to a new multi-purpose resource centre due to a \$2.0 million grant from the Ontario Government. The province is supporting Tropicana Community Services in their bid to acquire and renovate a building to establish a Centre of Excellence which will enable the agency to offer all of its major services under one roof.

The investment is part of Building Together, Ontario's long-term infrastructure plan, and was formally announced to Tropicana Board of Directors, staff and volunteers last Friday by Scarborough-Guildwood's MPP, Margaret Best.

"Ontario is investing in infrastructure to better serve children, youth and families," stated Minister Best, "This new multi-purpose facility will ensure that residents in this community can easily access the services they need well into the future."

"The realization of the funding for Tropicana's Centre of Excellence represents a triumph for all of those who contributed towards the effort as well as the commitment and support of the community" said Sharon Shelton, Tropicana's executive director.

Tropicana's capital campaign for a Centre of Excellence was launched in 2005. Through the generous donations of community members and organizations as well as the fundraising efforts of staff, board and volunteers, over \$500,000 was raised.

Operating out of six separate sites, last year Tropicana served over 22, 000 clients. Once renovated, the new site will house community and social facilities such as counselling rooms, resource and employment training facilities, computer labs, a teaching kitchen, classrooms, office space and a recreational facility.

Minister of Children and Youth Services, Laurel Broten, remarked that "This investment will help Tropicana Community Services to continue its long tradition of providing families in the Scarborough area with supports and services that will help them thrive."

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About Tropicana Community Services

Established in 1980, Tropicana, a Toronto-based multi-service organization, provides all youth, newcomers, people of Black and Caribbean heritage and others in need with opportunities and alternatives that lead to success and positive life choices. Our mission is achieved through culturally appropriate programs such as counselling, child care, educational and employment services and youth development.

For more information:

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