



Ability Benevolence Liberty Empowered
Aptitudes Bienveillance Liberté Engagé

MEDIA RELEASE

June 11, 2025

ABLE2 to Expand Matching Connect Program Thanks to \$347,800 OTF grant from Ontario Government

Ottawa, ON – On Wednesday, local MPP Catherine McKenney met with the team at ABLE2: Support for People with Disabilities to celebrate a \$347,800 Grow grant they received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The grant will expand ABLE2's innovative Matching Connect Program over the next three years.

"The work ABLE2 does to support and empower people with disabilities in Ottawa Centre is unmatched. I am so excited to see this work, specifically their incredible Matching Connect Program, continue and grow thanks to generous support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation," said Catherine McKenney MPP for Ottawa Centre.

ABLE2's Matching Connect Program facilitates meaningful one-to-one friendships by connecting individuals with disabilities, referred to as "Friends," with volunteers, known as "Allies," through phone and video calls. The program addresses the pressing need for social connection and inclusion among people with disabilities, many of whom face long-standing isolation and limited opportunities to build friendships. With over 200 individuals currently on the waitlist, forming a traditional in-person Match can take years. This virtual model offers a faster, more flexible and accessible alternative, while preserving the program's core values of genuine, person-centred connection.

The OTF grant will enable ABLE2 to enhance volunteer recruitment, reduce wait times, and provide immediate social support through virtual interactions. The program is especially beneficial for people facing mobility challenges, health limitations, or socio-economic barriers that make in-person engagement difficult. The Matching Connect Program empowers people with disabilities to build strong social bonds and fosters a deeper sense of belonging in their communities.

"The Ontario Trillium Foundation grant is a game-changer, not just for ABLE2, but for the hundreds of individuals who have been waiting for a Match," said Heather Lacey, Executive Director of ABLE2. "People with disabilities often experience loneliness and isolation. This grant is an investment in mental health, inclusion, and a more connected community where every person is seen as able, important, and valued."

ABLE2 is a charitable organization that empowers individuals with disabilities to build fulfilling lives by supporting them with programs, services, and resources. People with disabilities face many barriers to their full participation in society, they can include stigma, discrimination, poverty, exclusion from employment, and inequities in the education, health care and legal systems. Visit www.able2.org to learn more.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested nearly \$105M into 732 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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For more information on ABLE2, please visit: <https://www.able2.org/>

Facebook: facebook.com/ABLE2Ott

Instagram: [@able2ott](https://instagram.com/able2ott)

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/able2ott

Threads: [@able2ott](https://threads.net/able2ott)

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