

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Centre Wellington; June 21, 2021] The Southwestern Ontario Hub provides approximately \$550,000 to community-led infrastructure projects as part of the Government of Canada’s Healthy Communities Initiative.

The Southwestern Ontario HUB is pleased to announce the allocation of funding to local community led-projects. The Southwestern Ontario HUB is co-led by Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation, London Community Foundation and WindsorEssex Community Foundation, in partnership with Aylmer Area Community Foundation, Sarnia Community Foundation and Sunset Community Foundation supported by Centre Wellington Community Foundation, Dufferin Community Foundation, Elgin St. Thomas Community Foundation and Oxford Community Foundation.

As Canadians continue to adapt to the realities of COVID-19, local governments and community partners across the country are adapting their spaces and services to keep residents safe and healthy, support economic recovery, create jobs, and build vibrant, resilient communities.

Today, the Southwestern Ontario HUB is announcing funding to support 28 projects in Southwestern Ontario area as part of the first round of the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative. Through the \$31-million Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, the Government of Canada, alongside Community Foundations of Canada, is building safer spaces and ensuring a higher quality of life for people across the country, by helping communities adapt to the challenges presented by COVID-19.

The Southwestern Ontario HUB are supporting the following organizations or projects led by the following organizations as part of the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative:

- **Canadian Mental Health Association, Windsor-Essex County Branch**
- **Downtown Simcoe BIA**
- **Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative**
- **Elora Centre for the Arts**
- **Goderich Rotary Club**
- **Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre**
- **Grey County**
- **Guelph Hiking Trail Club**
- **Huron Shores United Church / Grand Bend Place**

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- Hutton House
- Kettle Creek Conservation Authority
- London Public Library
- Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation
- Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston
- Nshwaasnangong Child Care & Family Centre (SOAHAC)
- Old Town Hall Association
- Optimist Club of Aylmer
- Pat the Dog Theatre Creation
- Saugeen Shores Community Food Bank
- Social Development Centre Waterloo Region
- The Corporation of the Town of Tecumseh
- The Corporation of the Township of Pelee
- The Working Centre
- Township of Zorra
- West Elgin Community Health Centre
- Windsor Public Library
- Woolwich Community Health Centre
- Zorra Recreation Advisory Committee

Round 2 Applications

Organizations can apply to the second round of the Healthy Communities Initiative between May 14, 2021, at 9:00 AM AST through June 25, 2021, at 5:00 PM PST.

Quotes

“The projects we’re announcing today demonstrates the creativity and commitment of communities and community partners across Canada to respond to the unique needs of their residents and create a high quality of life for them as they continue to remain vigilant in this pandemic. Through these projects, and the many more that will be announced in the coming weeks, the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative will help Canadians and their families enjoy safer, more vibrant, and inclusive communities now and into the future. It’s through investments in infrastructure that we’re working to ensure outcomes with triple benefits – growing our economy, fighting climate change, and reducing social inequality and ensuring a better quality of life of all Canadians.” **The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities**

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"COVID-19 has put a serious strain on cities and towns across our country, impacting the way our neighbourhoods look, work, and feel. In response, the Government of Canada has introduced the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, designed to bring joy back to our streets in a safe and innovative way. We've seen many innovative projects, like the ones announced today, roll in from across the country and we're excited to see how they enhance the lives of Canadians from coast to coast to coast." **Andy Fillmore, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, and Member of Parliament for Halifax**

"Community spaces are where our newcomer neighbours connect, our women leaders create and innovate, and sustainable community movements are born. Projects announced under the Canada Healthy Communities Initiatives provide local solutions with the biggest impacts to the residents of Kitchener Centre." **Raj Saini, Member of Parliament for Kitchener Centre**

"Communities know best what kind of projects would have the greatest impact for their residents and local economies as they respond to the unique challenges presented by COVID-19. That's why it's great to see support for the Guelph Hiking Trail's project, which will ensure safe healthy activities in our community. Through the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, we are proud to support community-driven solutions that allow Canadians to safely participate in daily social and economic activities." **Lloyd Longfield, Member of Parliament for Guelph**

"Communities know best what kind of projects would have the greatest impact for their residents and local economies as they respond to the unique challenges presented by COVID-19. That is why it's great to see these projects supported in the Southwestern Ontario area. Through the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative, we are proud to support community-driven solutions that allow Canadians to safely participate in daily social and economic activities." **Tim Louis, Member of Parliament for Kitchener-Conestoga**

"Public spaces are the glue to our communities: they enable a feeling of belonging and of social cohesion. They are a big part of what makes communities safe, vibrant, and connected. As the Southwestern Ontario area faces increased isolation due to COVID-19, these projects from the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative will help our community to connect safely and will benefit the mental and physical well-being of our residents." - **[Raymond Soucy , Executive Director at Centre Wellington Community foundation]**

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CANADA HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

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“The Healthy Communities Initiative is supporting organizations in Southwestern Ontario to bring people together in our communities both in person and digitally, while respecting public health measures. These projects show us the creativity and resourcefulness of communities as they create temporary and longer-lasting solutions that enable people to connect and access public spaces safely.” - Andrea Dicks, President, Community Foundations of Canada.

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