



**Centre de ressources communautaires
RIDEAU-ROCKCLIFFE
Community Resource Centre**

Overbrook • Forbes • Carson Grove • Manor Park
Lindenlea • Rockcliffe • New Edinburgh

MEDIA RELEASE

October 9, 2025

\$143,700 OTF Grant from the Ontario Government Helps Community Centre's Urban Farm Grow

Ottawa, ON – On Thursday, local MPP Lucille Collard met with the team at the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre (RRCRC) to hear more about the \$143,000 Grow grant from the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) that was used to expand its hydroponic leafy greens program. The project will strengthen community food security through locally grown fresh produce.

"This project is a wonderful example of how innovation in urban agriculture can strengthen our communities. By transforming an unused space into a productive indoor farm, the Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre is showing what's possible when creativity meets commitment to food security," said Lucille Collard, MPP for Ottawa—Vanier.

Located in the old shop class of a former high school, the \$143,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation has allowed the RRCRC's Social Harvest Program to convert the space from a microgreens growing project to an urban farm that supplies fresh produce for their Emergency Food Bank. The grant made it possible for Social Harvest to improve the equipment for hydroponics, hire staff and ultimately, better support community members in need. This will enhance RRCRC's ability to provide a consistent supply of high-quality fresh produce to food-insecure community members throughout the year. It also will allow the organization to engage more volunteers and program participants, creating valuable opportunities for hands-on learning, skills development, and community connection.

"This grant has played a crucial role in equipping us to meet rising community food needs through innovative urban agriculture," said Maddie LeBlanc, Project Officer of the RRCRC's Social Harvest program. "It has enabled us to acquire the essential equipment needed to transform our hydroponic growing space into a highly productive and efficient facility. With this support, we have significantly expanded our production capacity, strengthened the resilience of our crops, and aligned our growing practices with industry best standards. This project serves as a powerful proof of concept: by transforming a former wood workshop into a thriving indoor farm, we are demonstrating that fresh, nutritious food can be grown efficiently in unconventional spaces."

The RRCRC's mission is to provide a range of social supports and services that enable the empowerment of residents, community resilience, and the inclusion of all. Our vision is for a safe, dignified and fulfilling life for all Rideau-Rockcliffe residents. You can learn more about this critical work and how to get involved at: www.crcrr.org

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.

-30-

Organization Contact for Media Inquiries:

Gabrielle Davis, Communications and Fund Development Lead
Rideau-Rockcliffe Community Resource Centre
613-850-9619
gabrielle.davis@crcrr.org