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$162, 700 Grant Positively Impacts Seniors' Communities

Ottawa - On Friday, September 1st, Canadian Organic Growers (COG) welcomed senior community gardeners and other distinguished guests at 800 St. Laurent, for a Recognition Event honouring the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The event was held as a summer garden party, celebrating the success of COG's Senior Organic Gardeners' multi-cultural community gardens initiative. MPP for Ottawa-Vanier, Nathalie Des Rosiers, MPP for Ottawa South, John Fraser and OTF Grant Review Team member Norma Lamont were on hand to congratulate the participants of the grant project and hear about the impact of this grant on members of the community.

"I am very pleased that the Canadian Organic Growers have received a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the sum of $162,700 over 24 months to build the seniors' organic community gardens and create six gardening committees," said Nathalie Des Rosiers, MPP for Ottawa-Vanier. "The Senior Organic Gardeners (SOG) program, a facet of the Ottawa-St. Lawrence-Outaouais Chapter of Canadian Organic Growers, is an innovative program, reaching out to diverse groups of seniors in the Ottawa region, offering them therapeutic organic horticulture."

"The Canadian Organic Growers program to build seniors' organic community gardens and create six seniors gardening committees is another example of how the Ontario Trillium Foundation grants foster healthy and vibrant communities," said John Fraser, MPP for Ottawa South. "This great initiative offers opportunities to seniors in their homes, apartments, retirement residences, and long-term care facilities to engage in organic vegetable, herb and edible flower gardening and to benefit from the healthy activity and restful therapy that gardening is."

"People are living longer, healthier lives. I applaud the Canadian Organic Growers (COG) for their leadership in offering seniors an active past time, while promoting local food security and fostering community," said Yasir Naqvi, MPP for Ottawa Centre. "With this Ontario Trillium Foundation grant, I'm pleased that COG's Senior Organic Gardeners' multi-cultural community gardens initiative will be able to spread its roots and grow into 2018."

The Ontario Trillium Foundation grant has enabled Senior Organic Gardeners to carry out an organic community gardening and therapeutic horticulture program, reaching out to multi-cultural seniors' communities in Ottawa with a goal of celebrating their rich heritage.

Our program fosters diverse perspectives on community gardening projects, across multi-ethnic, multi-faith, and multi-cultural groups. Thanks to the $162, 700 grant received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Senior Organic Gardeners program was able to successfully undertake this project in 2017, and will be continuing into 2018.

"The impact of this OTF grant has been remarkable", said Wayne Adams, Executive Director of Canadian Organic Growers. Program Manager of Senior Organic Gardeners, Adèle McKay added: "Through this grant, we have established organic gardening projects in several multi-cultural seniors' communities throughout Ottawa. United by a common theme of organic gardening and horticulture, linguistic barriers have been overcome, and social inclusion and acceptance has been fostered, allowing for diverse groups to shape community."

The Senior Organic Gardeners program is committed to reaching out to seniors from all walks of life, offering them the enriching activity of organic gardening. For more information about our program, please visit our website at www.cog.ca.

An agency of the Government of Ontario, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is one of Canada's largest granting foundations. With a budget of over $136 million, OTF awards grants to some 1,000 projects every year to build healthy and vibrant Ontario communities. www.otf.ca

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