



## Media Release

June 3, 2022

### **\$48,900 Ontario Trillium Foundation Grant Brings Back In-Person Camp for Children Affected by Cancer**

**(Toronto, Ontario)** After two years of Virtual Camp-at-Home, Camp Quality Canada is excited to bring our community back together in-person at camp. With support from the \$48,900 grant awarded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation in 2022, our year-round volunteers and staff are hard at work to make this the Best Summer Ever!

As a result of the grant that was awarded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation in 2022; Camp Quality Canada will be able to increase our capacity to deliver safe and high-quality programs that will allow us to adapt to our changing world and meet the needs of our vulnerable campers. In order to return to camp safely, we are implementing enhanced health and safety protocols, and developing new training for volunteers. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of camp programs, and with their help, we can adapt to a post-COVID world where we continue to improve the quality of life of children with cancer.

Childhood cancer survivors report higher levels of anxiety, depression and social isolation than their healthy peers. COVID forced us to deliver camp virtually, making it difficult to create the same community and outcomes to improve the quality of life for kids with cancer. Since our campers and volunteers stayed home to keep themselves and their communities safe, they had fewer opportunities for social connection. Because of this, our campers have experienced isolation. The need for our in-person camp programs has never been greater.

For kids with cancer, camp is the one opportunity that they have to connect with other kids with similar experiences. At camp, our volunteers provide a safe and fun environment for campers to explore their independence, gain friendships and be active. Our Medical Advisory Committee guides the creation of an environment that both keeps our campers safe and healthy while providing them with the opportunity to try new activities and take on new challenges.

“We are so excited to welcome campers back to in-person programs this summer.



There is truly nothing better than seeing the volunteers support campers as they try an activity for the first time, sit under the starry sky giggling about funny memories or seeing the friendships created around the campfire," said Lauren Burke, Sr. Director of Programs.

Every year, camp looks a little different. Some of the activities that campers participate in include: High & low ropes, archery, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, crafts and more. Throughout the camp week, campers will rotate through activities in a cohort, as part of our enhanced safety protocols, giving them the opportunity to try a variety of activities.

"We are so grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their support of Camp Quality, our campers, volunteers and programs. Thanks to the OTF grant, we are able to return to our in-person camp programs safely," said Fiona Fisher, Executive Director.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation is a Government of Ontario agency that supports projects aimed at building healthy and vibrant communities. In 2022, the Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded \$95.8M to 1,146 projects run by nonprofits who were affected by COVID-19; these funds will help with stabilization and resiliency through these difficult times.

For more information about Camp Quality camp programs, volunteering, introducing new campers and their families, or donating, visit [www.campquality.org](http://www.campquality.org).

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