

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Planting the Seed for More Research with Lifelong Learning Niagara New OTF Grant

**St. Catharines** – On Friday, Lifelong Learning Niagara invited the public, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), and MPPs Jim Bradley to hear more a new initiative it's launching thanks to a \$52,000 OTF Seed grant. The group unveiled their plans to research and develop new education programs for area seniors.

“The \$52,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation Seed grant will be a valuable investment in the senior population in Niagara as it will enable those 50 and over to participate in Lifelong Learning Niagara programs providing educational learning opportunities for many who may have been left behind in years gone by.” – the Hon. Jim Bradley, MPP for St. Catharines.

The grant, which was approved in late 2015, will help with the costs involved with the research, testing and development of various educational learning opportunities for the 50+ adults living in the Niagara Region. Due to the remoteness of some communities in the Region, the project also hopes to effectively include, and connect, seniors by providing them with opportunities to participate in education programs and social events. There is also a spring 2016 Speaker Series, scheduled to begin May 4<sup>th</sup>, offering six weekly sessions at the Armenian Community Centre in St. Catharines.

“The measurable impact will include increased participation with Lifelong Learning Niagara and support to our future and growth,” said Gaby Arato, President, Lifelong Learning Niagara. “This grant will enable us to hire a Research Coordinator, who will be meeting with leaders of various senior community centres throughout Niagara Region, the design of a website, our logo and some marketing tools as well as the purchase of some audio-visual equipment necessary for providing the anticipated educational programs and events. Without OTF funding, our non-profit organization would not be able to afford this important project,” Arato added.

As an outcome for this project, Lifelong Learning Niagara hopes to be able to provide, on a continuous basis, various educational programs to seniors who may be isolated due to distance, physical limitations, social and economic constraints or just a general lack of awareness that contribute to limiting their direct involvement in such programs and activities. For more information on the program or organization, please contact: [www.lifelonglearningniagara.com](http://www.lifelonglearningniagara.com)

