

# community action grant



March 12, 2018

## **MLSE FOUNDATION AWARDS TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT PRESENTED BY JUST ENERGY FOUNDATION TO CHILDREN'S TREATMENT CENTRE FOUNDATION OF CHATHAM-KENT**

MLSE Foundation announced Children's Treatment Centre Foundation of Chatham-Kent (CTC-CK) as this year's recipient of the *Toronto Maple Leafs Community Action Grant* presented by *Just Energy Foundation* during Saturday's Toronto Maple Leafs versus Pittsburgh Penguins game at Air Canada Centre. Erika Minkhorst, MLSE Foundation's Director of Philanthropy & Operations, was joined by Nancy Donnaperina, Just Energy Communications Manager, Michael Grail, Chair of the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent Foundation's Board of Directors and Carson Grail, participant of the Sledge Hockey and Adapted Skating program, for the announcement and cheque presentation. MLSE Foundation's Community Action Grant, presented by Just Energy Foundation, worth \$50,000 will help support CTC-CK's Sledge Hockey and Adapted Skating program.

"We are proud to award the Children's Treatment Centre Foundation of Chatham-Kent the Community Action Grant (in partnership with Just Energy Foundation)," said Tanya Mruck, Executive Director of MLSE Foundation. "MLSE Foundation is extremely supportive of programs that go beyond teaching the skills of sport but that harness the power of sport to be transformative for youth of all abilities. The CTC-CK's commitment to deliver specialized and adapted programming is an excellent example of how sport can and does enhance communities across Ontario."

The CTC-CK's Sledge Hockey and Adapted Skating program provides the opportunity for children and youth in Chatham-Kent with special needs to participate in and enjoy ice hockey, skating and physical activity. The program assists participants with physiotherapy goals, strengthening and life skills such as transitions, communication, turn-taking and social skills. The physical activity and life skills learned through the program help to facilitate sustainable physical activity outside of the Centre and throughout the community. The program is organized and delivered by a CTC-CK Recreation Therapist and Ashley Goure, Captain of Team Canada's Women's Sledge Hockey Team.

"The Children's Treatment Centre Foundation is thrilled to receive support from MLSE Foundation, a like-minded organization committed to ensuring all children, of all abilities, can participate in sports and be physically active," said Michael Grail, Chair of the Children's Treatment Centre Foundation's Board of Directors. "MLSE Foundation's support of the CTC-CK's Sledge Hockey and Adapted Skating Program allows kids with disabilities in Chatham-Kent to enjoy the game of hockey, just like their peers, to live their best life and reach their full potential."

For 70 years, the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent has provided quality therapy and programming to children with physical, developmental and communication challenges from birth through age 21. The CTC-CK provides an inclusive environment for children and families to develop their unique interests and reach their full

potential, in-Centre and throughout the community. The CTC-CK Sledge Hockey and Adapted Skating program has been running for over six years and are the only programs delivered to and geared to children and youth with special needs in Chatham-Kent. The Community Action Grant will help run programming in Chatham's Thames Campus Arena and funding from MLSE Foundation will help ensure the sustainability of the CTC-CK's Sledge Hockey program for three years.

"We are extremely delighted to see the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent receive this \$50,000 Community Action Grant for hockey," says Kandi Terry, Executive Director of Just Energy Foundation. "We are inspired by their vision and work to help youth with special needs reach their fullest potential. The Just Energy Foundation has a strong connection to youth and a firm belief in providing unique experiential learning that promotes access, enablement and enrichment to level the playing field, help youth build confidence and set them up for future success."

*The Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors and Toronto FC Community Action Grants* are three \$50,000 sport-specific prizes presented by Just Energy Foundation that MLSE Foundation award to charitable organizations supporting youth sports programming in Toronto. Each year, eligible organizations can apply for all grants at [mlsefoundation.org](http://mlsefoundation.org), where submissions are reviewed by a selection committee before a winner is chosen and announced at a special event in their community.

### **About Children's Treatment Centre Foundation of Chatham-Kent**

For 70 years, the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent has provided quality therapy and programming to children and youth with special needs, helping all kids, of all abilities, reach their full potential. These services include physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, autism services, audiology, social work, respite, music therapy, and a variety of adapted recreational programs. Services are delivered through our Chatham campus and outreach hubs situated throughout 10 Chatham-Kent communities. Visit [www.ctc-ck.com](http://www.ctc-ck.com) to learn more, and follow the CTC Foundation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

### **About MLSE Foundation**

MLSE Foundation believes all kids should have access to sport and the opportunity to develop lasting dreams on the playing field. With the support of MLSE's teams, MLSE Foundation funds the refurbishment of local athletic facilities and programs that support kids through sports and recreation. Since launching in 2010, MLSE Foundation has invested more than \$30 million into our community. For more information visit [mlsefoundation.org](http://mlsefoundation.org) and follow MLSE Foundation on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

### **About Just Energy Foundation**

Just Energy Foundation was established in 2013 by Just Energy Group Inc. to help registered Canadian and U.S. charitable organizations secure the resources required to promote the health and well-being of communities in need. Funded entirely by Just Energy, the Foundation invests in local programs that work to enhance the quality of life in Just Energy's operating markets towards building stronger and supportive communities. Visit [justenergyfoundation.com](http://justenergyfoundation.com) to learn more.

### **Media Contacts:**

Nikk Kadbet, MLSE, [nikk.kadbet@mlse.com](mailto:nikk.kadbet@mlse.com), 647-919-6455

Nancy Donnaperma, Just Energy Foundation, [ndonnaperma@justenergy.com](mailto:ndonnaperma@justenergy.com), 905-670-4440 x 71312

Shelby Sanchuk, Children's Treatment Centre Foundation of Chatham-Kent, [ssanchuk@childrenstreatment-ck.com](mailto:ssanchuk@childrenstreatment-ck.com), 519-359-5815