

July 21, 2017

Government of Ontario investing \$8 million over three years to support 40 new Elderly Persons Centres.

Ontario is expanding their network of Elderly Persons Centres in Ontario.

Hon. Dipika Damerla, Minister of Seniors Affairs, formally announced yesterday the Government of Ontario's investment of \$8 million, over 3 years, that was included in the 2017 Budget for the addition of 40 new Elderly Persons Centres. Minister Damerla noted that a call for proposals will be issued in the early fall 2017 to move forward on this expansion. There are currently 263 Elderly Persons Centres across Ontario, including the Rockway Centre in Kitchener, where the event took place. See [news release](#) for more information.



Sue Hesjedahl, Executive Director of OACAO, participated in the event and said “As a strong advocate for the Elderly Persons Centres program, the OACAO worked closely with the Ministry of Seniors Affairs and Minister Damerla’s office, to advocate for increased funding and the expansion of the EPC program. The OACAO membership represents over half of the current 263 EPCS. We also have many members who are not currently funded through the EPC program, who are very pleased with this news, as the funding has not been open for new applicants since 2010.”



Sue commended Minister Damerla, her team, and the Government of Ontario, as they move forward on their “Action Plan for Seniors” to expand Ontario’s network of Elderly Persons Centres. EPCS provide seniors with opportunities to stay healthy, active and engaged in their local communities. She noted the progress that has been made on the new “Seniors Active Living Centres Act 2017” which received Royal Assent on May 30th. This modernized legislation will replace the EPC Act and will be more flexible and responsive to the needs of seniors in local communities. The OACAO advocated to have this legislation retain the requirement that approved centres be not-for-profit. An amendment was made to the legislation.



Minister Damerla, Sue Morgan, OACAO Grand River Regional Senior Rep, Bill Krever, OACAO Treasurer and Sue Hesjedahl, OACAO Executive Director.

Several OACAO members were present for the event including Bill Krever, OACAO Treasurer and Sue Morgan, Grand River Regional Senior Rep.

As more information is made available regarding the upcoming call for proposals from new centres, it will be shared with the OACAO membership.

For more information contact Sue Hesjedahl at sue@oacao.org or 905-584-8125.