



## LUTHERWOOD CELEBRATES TRANSFORMATION OF CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CENTRE

November 18, 2011

**WATERLOO, ONTARIO** – Federal and provincial representatives joined Lutherwood staff and clients today to officially open and celebrate their transformed Children's Mental Health Centre.

The rebuild and expansion of the 40-year-old building will ensure there is a modern mental health resource to serve current and future generations. New resource areas have been created where families can learn about their child's mental health challenges, students can conduct research, and professionals can learn best practices. As well, the installation of a modern heating/cooling system and upgraded insulation will help Lutherwood reduce energy consumption.

"For more than 40 years, Lutherwood has earned a strong reputation for improving the lives of children and families in the Waterloo Region," said Peter Braid, Member of Parliament for Kitchener–Waterloo, on behalf of the Honourable Denis Lebel, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities. "Our Government is proud to invest in the revitalization of this building, which will enable Lutherwood to continue to provide important programs and services in our community for many years to come."

"For years Lutherwood has provided a safe and healthy environment for area youth to face challenges, grow and lead healthy, active lives. These new facilities will ensure this organization continues to support these goals," said the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Community and Social Services and Member of Provincial Parliament for Kitchener Centre. "Our government is proud to have invested in this strategic infrastructure project, which has created more than 15 construction jobs for Ontario families and will strengthen our community."

"Today is a great day for children's mental health," said Dr. John Colangeli, Lutherwood Chief Executive Officer. "Thanks to our donors, partners and many friends, our dream is now a reality. We have transformed the heart of our 40-year-old building into a warm and inviting environment where we can help children struggling with their mental health; and most importantly, we have a place where our community can talk openly so that we help reduce the stigma that has surrounded children's mental health for so long."

The governments of Canada and Ontario are each contributing one third of total eligible project costs, up to a maximum of \$2 million each toward the project. Lutherwood's fundraising efforts have contributed the balance of the total eligible project cost of \$6 million.

As a result of this project, Lutherwood's Children's Mental Health Centre can accommodate increased service demands using modern treatment standards, and continue to improve the quality of life for individuals and families in the community. The Centre now offers a safe and supervised place for 250 youth with mental health issues to live and develop effective

problem solving skills. The revitalized facility includes community meeting space for child and family therapy, parenting groups, and individual and group counselling; recreational facilities, including an indoor gymnasium, pool, playing fields, and natural woodlands; learning and research facilities; and, environmentally friendly indoor/outdoor learning facilities, including a children's garden and space for music, art/design, and alternative learning therapies.

Federal funding for this project comes from the Government of Canada's Infrastructure Stimulus Fund, which is supporting over 4,100 infrastructure projects across the country.

This project supports Building Together, Ontario's long-term infrastructure plan to repair, rebuild and renew the province's roads and highways, bridges, public transit, schools and postsecondary institutions, hospitals and courthouses. Since 2003, the Government of Ontario has created and supported 600,000 jobs and invested \$62 billion in infrastructure. Through Building Together, Ontario will continue to make significant investments in public infrastructure, starting with an investment of more than \$35 billion over the next three years.

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For additional information about investments in infrastructure, visit [www.infrastructure.gc.ca](http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca).

For further information about Canada's Economic Action Plan, visit [www.actionplan.gc.ca](http://www.actionplan.gc.ca).

To download a short broadcast-quality video highlighting a few of the many successful infrastructure projects across Canada, visit [infrastructure.gc.ca/video/video-eng.html](http://infrastructure.gc.ca/video/video-eng.html).

For more information on how Ontario is revitalizing its infrastructure, visit [ontario.ca/infrastructure](http://ontario.ca/infrastructure).

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