

MOUNT ROYAL MP ANTHONY HOUSEFATHER ANNOUNCES FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$922,025 FOR THE CUMMINGS CENTRE THERAPEUTIC DEMENTIA CARE PROGRAM

Côte Saint-Luc, September 4, 2019 –Anthony Housefather, Member of Parliament for Mount Royal, announced today that the Cummings Centre Therapeutic Dementia Care Program will receive \$922,025 in federal funding for the duration of 46 months. The funding will enable the continued operation of the Drop-in Program for Older Adults (Drop-in Program) located at the Côte Saint-Luc Aquatic and Community Centre.

The Drop-in Program provides stimulating programming and activities for vulnerable seniors (many of whom have been diagnosed with dementia) that maintain and improve their social, psychological, emotional and cognitive abilities. It also provides respite and support for the caregivers of the participants enabling them to gain knowledge, resources and skills.

Housefather was accompanied at the announcement by D’Arcy-McGee MNA David Birnbaum, Côte Saint-Luc Mayor Mitchell Brownstein, Cummings Centre Executive Director Pauline Grunberg, Program Manager Erica Botner and a number of participants in the program and their families.

Housefather was able to make this announcement thanks to funding made available by the the Dementia Community Investment under the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health.

The Dementia Community Investment supports community-based projects that will optimize the health and wellbeing of people living with dementia (PLWD) and/or family/friend caregivers, who are predominately women, by providing, opportunities to gain knowledge, resources and skills.

The Drop-in Program was started as a collaborative effort between all levels of government and the Cummings Centre when the local CLSC announced the closure of its drop-in centre in 2015.

“I initiated this project when I was still Mayor of Côte Saint-Luc in 2015 and residents of the West End approached me who were desperate to keep this vital service in place” Housefather said. “When I was elected an MP one of my first priorities was to secure funding for the Drop-in Program, which we did by obtaining \$390,913 over three years under the federal government’s New Horizons for Seniors Program. I have watched the program operate successfully and help caregivers who desperately need respite and seniors who deserve these stimulating programs. With the funding running out I worked closely with Cummings Centre, Mayor Brownstein and Côte Saint-Luc, David Birnbaum and his office and the federal Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor to find funding for this wonderful Drop-in Program and I am absolutely thrilled to announce funding that will sustain and improve the program over 4 years. I am proud to be part of a government that prioritizes the health and wellbeing of people who live with dementia and their caregivers.”

“I am extremely pleased to be part of a group that initiated the Drop-in Program and has worked to maintain it,” David Birnbaum said. “I want to congratulate Anthony and the federal government on finding funding to continue this worthy endeavour.”

“The City of Côte Saint-Luc has benefited so much through being a partner in a project serving so many within our community,” Côte Saint-Luc Mayor Mitchell Brownstein said. “The use of our Aquatic and Community Centre for this program fits both the mission of the building and the needs of our local residents. We are so pleased that federal funding has once again been made available for this worthy project improving the quality of life for so many. Serving those most in need makes Côte Saint Luc a better community for everyone.”

“At the Cummings Centre we are committed to enhancing the quality of life of individuals 50 years of age and older through arts, education, health, wellness and Jewish life. The Cummings Centre promotes positive attitudes

about aging,” said Pauline Grunberg, Executive Director. “We are pleased to use our expertise to run the Drop-in Program. My team, led by Erica Botner, has done phenomenal work over the last three years and we look forward to continuing and enhancing our program offering. Through the new Cummings Centre Therapeutic Dementia Care Program we are very excited to be part of a project with our Member of Parliament, Anthony Housefather, and all levels of government to deliver services that are desperately needed in the West End.”

Programs will be implemented in partnership with engAGE: Concordia University’s Centre for Research on Aging.

“This collaboration will involve dynamic interactions among researchers, practitioners, students, persons living with dementia, caregivers and other stakeholders, which in turn will allow for the emergence of innovative programs, meaningful program evaluations, and progressive approaches to research,” said Laurel Young, Associate Director of engAGE and a certified music therapist.

For information about the Dementia Community Investment or Drop-in Program for Older Adults, or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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About the Drop-in Program

The Cummings Centre Drop-in Program in Côte Saint-Luc provides respite to caregivers and helps to maintain and improve the social, physiological, emotional and cognitive abilities of older adults.

For more information, please visit: <https://cummingscentre.org/health-and-wellness/adapted-programs/drop-in-program/>

About the Dementia Community Investment

The purpose of the Dementia Community Investment is to support community-based projects that will optimize the health and wellbeing of PLWD and/or family/friend caregivers, who are predominately women, by providing, opportunities to gain knowledge, resources and skills. Projects must directly benefit PLWD and/or family/friend caregivers; take place in community-based settings; and engage PLWD and/or family/friend caregivers in project design and/or implementation to be considered for funding.

For more information please visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/funding-opportunities/grant-contribution-funding-opportunities/call-proposals-application-process-dementia-community-investment.html>