

Bold youth-led initiatives address local needs as Oxford Community Foundation joins national community challenge

Press Release for Immediate Release

Woodstock, Ontario - August 7, 2019: Oxford Community Foundation (OCF) is joining the RBC Future Launch Community Challenge, making up to \$15,000 available to youth-led projects that address diverse and urgent local priorities.

“This is incredibly exciting,” says Louise Wardrop, Executive Director of OCF. “Youth are facing pressures on many fronts, and so are our communities. We want to part of creative solutions that enhance equity, sustainability and fairness that help lay the groundwork for a brighter future.”

The RBC Future Launch Community Challenge will enable youth to apply for up to \$15,000 in funding to support their bold ideas to address urgent community priorities. It is an opportunity for young people to lead, learn new skills, gain experience, and build relationships in their local communities — all things that will help them prepare for the future of work.

This Community Challenge goes far beyond Oxford County, participating community foundations will make grants and learning opportunities available to youth-led initiatives in 150 communities from coast to coast to coast. The RBC Future Launch Community Challenge aims to empower Canadian youth for the jobs and community realities of the future.

“Young people are already demonstrating tremendous leadership in communities in Canada and across the world. Look no further than the massive youth-led initiatives such as global student marches against climate change. The RBC Future Launch Community Challenge is an exciting opportunity to help shift power into their hands further, by bringing them to the decision-making table where they can lead in developing solutions for the future,” says Andrew Chunilall, CEO of CFC.

“RBC believes strongly in the power, vision and potential of youth, and the influence they can have in their communities,” said Mark Beckles, Senior Director, Youth Strategy and Innovation, RBC. “That’s why we are thrilled to partner with CFC to help young people make a difference in communities across Canada while building the 21st century skills needed to prepare for the future of work.”

Grant applications will be accepted until September 18, 2019. Contact OCF for more information on how to apply, or visit www.oxfordcommunityfoundation.org

About Oxford Community Foundation

Oxford Community Foundation works to make Oxford County a better place by helping people leave personalized, lasting legacies that target grants to areas of interest and need. OCF is the only community foundation that serves all of Oxford County and are one of 191 community foundations across Canada. Participating in the RBC Future Launch Community Challenge builds on the community foundation's long-time support to local youth and youth leadership.

About RBC Future Launch Community Challenge

The RBC Future Launch Community Challenge will be hosted by Community Foundations of Canada and participating community foundations and is made possible thanks to a \$5M donation from RBC Foundation. It is part of RBC Future Launch, a commitment by RBC and the RBC Foundation to empower Canadian youth for the jobs of tomorrow. Over the next 10 years, RBC Future Launch is dedicating \$500 million to help young people access meaningful employment through practical work experience, skills development opportunities, networking solutions and mental well-being supports and services.

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