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IODE Canada

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DELISLE YOUTH SERVICES OF TORONTO

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IODE 100TH ANNIVERSARY GRANT

Many children and youth face isolation, stigma, low self esteem, abuse, neglect, violence, bullying and thoughts of suicide when they question or "come out" as LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, and Queer). Their future happiness depends on acceptance and support by their parents and family, whose attitudes and behaviour determine risks factors for this marginalized segment of society.

Past National President Noreen Salari, Chairman of the IODE 100th Anniversary Grant Program to alleviate child abuse and neglect, announced that Delisle Youth Services of Toronto won the 2011 grant of \$25,000 for their proposal to develop and implement a program to assist parents and family of LGBTQ children. The award was presented on Thursday, 24 February at the opening of Delisle's new Youth Centre.

Incorporated in 1973, Delisle Youth Services will use the grant to create an innovative and educational course, Parent and Family Education Program (PFEP), aimed at informing and supporting parents and families who lack relevant information on where to find assistance and on how to accept, help and support their LGBTQ child. Through the development of coping skills and knowledge learned through PFEP in communicating positively with their LGBTQ child, family relationships will be strengthened through acceptance of their child's sexual gender and identity. Families can then provide a safe and nurturing support system and cope with potential harmful, unsafe and negligent treatment of their family member outside the home.

For further community outreach, Delisle will also produce information videos on YouTube, and create and distribute materials for distribution through schools and community agencies. The effectiveness of the program's curriculum and materials will be determined in consultation with a professional group, such as Out and Proud, a program of the Children's Aid Society Toronto.

The IODE 100th Anniversary Grant Program is funded through the generous support of IODE members and primary chapters across Canada. Presented officially to Canada in June 2000, the grant is awarded biennially and has increased from \$15,000 to the present \$25,000.

In communication with Noreen Salari, Chairperson of the 100th Anniversary Grant Program, Peter M. Dudding, MM, MSW, RSW, CEO of the Child Welfare League of Canada (CWLC) commented, "The quality of the highly relevant applications from across Canada always makes this a difficult selection process. I am very impressed by the ability of your members to attract the excellent proposals...On behalf of the CWLC and our 125 members across Canada, I want to thank IODE Canada for its continuing support of programs to prevent, treat and eliminate child abuse and neglect."

IODE Canada is a national women's charitable organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for individuals through education support, community service and citizenship programs. For more information, please visit www.iode.ca.

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