



# Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region

February 20, 2019

Smart Cities Challenge Jury  
c/o Government of Canada, Impact and Innovation Unit  
85 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada K1A 0A3

## **Re: Support for Waterloo Region's Smart Cities Challenge**

Dear Smart Cities Challenge Jury:

We are writing to express our support for Waterloo Region's Smart Cities Challenge proposal for funding through Impact Canada's *Smart Cities Challenge*.

As Co-Chairs of the Children and Youth Planning Table of Waterloo Region (CYPT), we know first-hand the importance of making child and youth wellbeing a priority for any community, and that no one organization can solve the persistent child and youth wellbeing challenges that we face. As an open-door collaborative, the CYPT has brought together over 500 professionals (e.g., service providers, funders, researchers, public servants, educators, health care professionals, etc.) from various corners of our community over the past seven years. Our work together is focused on breaking down silos, removing organizational 'hats' to put children and youth at the centre of our efforts, and creating a community culture where children and youth matter – and they know they matter. Our 70+ member organizations (see attached listing) have come together voluntarily to cross sectors, mandates, ministries and geographies with the vision of 'happy healthy children and youth – today and tomorrow'. We are eager to expand and leverage this valuable social infrastructure toward even more ambitious community goals.

**Happy, healthy children and youth – today and tomorrow.**

[www.childrenandyouthplanningtable.ca](http://www.childrenandyouthplanningtable.ca)  
99 Regina St. S., 5th Floor, Waterloo, Ontario, N2J 4G6  
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The *Smart Cities Challenge* came at just the right time to accelerate the efforts of the CYPT and build off of the important foundational work towards system-level change. As a Key Partner, we have invested significant backbone staff time to both the Phase 1 and Phase 2 Smart Cities Challenge work. The membership has provided critical advice and deep expertise from the perspective of those who work with children, youth and families every day. They have also been an irreplaceable conduit to the children, youth and families who participated in the extensive Smart Cities Challenge engagement – particularly in their ability to leverage their trusting relationships with those furthest from opportunity. The time and focus of our Data, Research & Evaluation Team, as well as our Communications Advisory Team have also been heavily utilized to ensure the success of the Waterloo Region Smart Cities Challenge. More than anything however, the CYPT has promoted and reinforced the importance of meaningful child and youth engagement and of focusing on root causes in the creation of the Smart Cities Challenge submission.

As we look forward to implementation of the Waterloo Region Smart Cities Challenge proposal, the CYPT remains fully engaged in the project. We are committed to fully aligning our collective efforts to support the successful implementation of the Waterloo Region Smart Cities Challenge proposal. We will dedicate time and effort to ensure a hand-in-hand approach to the following areas of work in particular:

- **Collective Impact** – we are experts in working collectively, and will help to realize the greatest possible impact in the focus areas of early childhood development, emotional/mental health, literacy and sense of belonging. The CYPT will be able to inform the data/tech-enabled supports, and perhaps most notably, inform and complement the work related to non-data/tech-enabled approaches and strategies.
- **Data, Research and Evaluation** – we will support the implementation, usage and capacity building needed for the Smart Waterloo Region Data Collaborative, the development and support of a Shared Measurement Framework, and efforts to understand the various impacts that are being achieved.
- **Meaningful Child and Youth Engagement** – we will champion the notion that the voices and involvement of children and youth remain front and centre to the implementation of this work, and ensure that a diverse mix of children and youth have opportunities not only for input, but also to co-design and co-create with adult allies, as well as to lead.

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- Strategic Engagement – we will leverage our relationships to ensure greater involvement of less-engaged sectors, and shifting norms to ensure child and youth wellbeing is a shared societal priority.
- Service System Access and Navigation – we will continue our work towards a system of services and supports for children, youth and families that is easier to access, more timely, cohesive and well informed.

We are on the road to becoming the benchmark community in Canada for child and youth wellbeing, and the Children and Youth Planning Table is eager to ensure our on-going, collective success. We know that to go far, we need to go together, and the membership of the Children and Youth Planning Table is fully committed to contributing meaningfully to this journey!

Sincerely,

Deb Engel, Director of Community Services, Carizon  
Children and Youth Planning Table Co-Chair

Barb Cardow, Director of Children's Services, Region of Waterloo  
Children and Youth Planning Table Co-Chair

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## Member Organizations:

1. Adventures 4 Change
2. ASD Collaborative
3. Big Brothers Big Sisters Waterloo Region
4. Cambridge Family Early Years Centre
5. Cambridge Foodbank
6. Carizon Family and Community Services
7. Centre Educatif Village D'Elisabeth
8. Child Witness Centre
9. City of Cambridge
10. City of Kitchener—Children and Youth Services
11. CMHA Waterloo Wellington Dufferin
12. Community Justice Initiatives of Waterloo Region
13. Conestoga College
14. Conseil Scolaire Catholique MonAvenir
15. Conseil Scolaire Viamonde
16. Creative Beginnings Childcare Centre
17. Crime Prevention Council of Waterloo Region
18. Developmental Services Resource Centre Waterloo Region
19. Early Literacy Alliance of Waterloo Region
20. Early-ON YMCA
21. Emmanuel Childcare
22. Extend-a-Family Waterloo Region
23. Family and Children's Services of the Waterloo Region
24. Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries
25. Food 4 Kids Waterloo Wellington
26. Highland Stirling Community Group
27. House of Friendship
28. Idea Exchange
29. Inspiring Minds Early Learning and Child Care Centre
30. Jacob Hespeler Child Care Centre
31. John Howard Society of Waterloo-Wellington
32. KidsAbility
33. Kinbridge Community Association
34. Kitchener Public Library
35. Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation
36. Kitchener Waterloo Multicultural Centre
37. KW Counselling Services

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38. KW Habilitation
39. Langs Farm Village Association
40. Lutherwood
41. Lyle S. Hallman Foundation
42. Mac Maple Grove School Preschool and Child Care Centre
43. Our Place Family Resource and Early Years Centre
44. Owl Child Care Services of Ontario
45. Peekaboo Child Care Centre
46. Plasticity Labs
47. Project Read Literacy Network
48. Region of Waterloo—Community Services
49. Region of Waterloo—Library Services
50. Region of Waterloo—Public Health and Emergency Services
51. Shore Centre
52. Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries
53. St. John's Nursery School
54. Strong Start
55. The Oaks Child Care
56. The Salvation Army Parent Child Resource Centre
57. United Way Waterloo Region Communities
58. Waterloo Catholic District School Board
59. Waterloo Infant Toddler Daycare Association
60. Waterloo Public Library
61. Waterloo Region District School Board
62. Waterloo Region Family Network
63. Waterloo Region Police Service
64. Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network
65. White Own Native Ancestry
66. Wilfrid Laurier University
67. Wilmot Family Resource Centre
68. Woolwich Community Health Centre
69. Woolwich Community Services
70. YMCAs of Cambridge & Kitchener-Waterloo
71. YW Kitchener Waterloo
72. YWCA of Cambridge

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