

Media Release

For Immediate Release

\$2,000 IN FREE MONEY FOR CHILDREN'S POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

March 31, 2015 – Halton Region, Ontario

Two thousand dollars in free federal funding is available to children born since 2004 for their post-secondary training! Yes...free! Qualifying families are those currently receiving the National Child Benefit Supplement. To date, more than 35% of the 22,944 eligible children living in Halton have signed up for the Canada Learning Bonds (CLB). Starting today, a community-wide network including schools, faith groups, arts organizations, children's service agencies, recreation centres, food banks, governments and social service agencies in Halton is launching a 60-day campaign to sign up at least 35% of the remaining 14,345 kids eligible for the free bond.

"We're thrilled that so many families have taken advantage of this free financing program through our sign-up events in 2013 and 2014. Our goal now is to get more than 70% of eligible Oakville families signed up for the program through this community blitz," according to June Cockwell, Co-Chair of the Halton Poverty Roundtable (HPRT) and co-chair of this community drive.

"Setting up education savings programs for children helps make possible the dream of being trained and educated post-high school. Studies show that the mere existence of educational savings makes a child 50% more likely to continue their education beyond high school," says Cockwell.

"We're committed to bringing the free bond initiative to the attention of every family in this community," says Regional Chair Gary Carr. "We're delighted that this cause is being taken up by a broad coalition of front-line community agencies."

The campaign to promote the CLB is being jointly spear headed by the HPRT, the Oakville Y, ArtHouse, the United Way of Oakville, Oak Park Neighbourhood Centre, the Region of Halton. Each will provide staff to help interested families register for the bond at multiple locations throughout Halton.

Funds offered by the Government of Canada for the CLB must be used for the child's future studies at university, college or trade school.



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For more information on how and where to sign up for the bonds, please visit www.smartstarhalton.com

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