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For Immediate Release

PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY HOMES RECEIVES \$23,700 GRANT

BELLEVILLE – At today’s Grand Opening celebration of Plainfield Community Homes’ new building on Millennium Parkway, Ernie Parsons, MPP and C.J. Miller, a member of the Ontario Trillium Foundation’s Grant Review Team announced that Plainfield Community Homes has received a \$23,700 grant from the Foundation. The grant will allow Plainfield Community Homes to continue the very significant work it began with a 2002 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

“Plainfield Community Homes has always been a superb facility, focused on providing their clients with a full, community oriented, life experience,” said Parsons. “I believe that the volunteer program that this grant will support is an important step towards enhancing the quality of life for all of Plainfield’s residents.”

This new grant enables Plainfield Community Homes to hire a half-time Facilitator/Connector for one year and expand their volunteer program. The 2002 Ontario Trillium Foundation grant made it possible for Plainfield Community Homes to implement this unique program to recruit, train and support interested volunteers and match them with the people supported by Plainfield, many of whom have complex physical and developmental disabilities and have lived in group homes and institutions most of their lives.

The new grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation demonstrates that the Foundation recognizes the importance and merits of this initiative.

John Klassen, Executive Director of Plainfield Community Homes, says “This generous grant will enable us to build upon and sustain our current volunteer program and continue to increase opportunities for people to expand their network of friends and personal connections. This can ultimately lead to greater community involvement as citizens become embedded in the very life of their community.”

Candy Davidson, member of the Plainfield Community Homes Board of Governors, says, “I am pleased that the Ontario Trillium Foundation recognizes the merits of this important initiative and the work we have done in this area. Many people who have historically been socially disadvantaged will continue to have so much more to look forward to.”

Plainfield Community Homes has provided support and assistance to people with complex physical and developmental disabilities for more than 50 years. It has evolved over the years to become a large, non-profit charitable organization providing a range of services to about 100 adults and children. Plainfield Community Homes is committed to supporting people with disabilities through the promotion of their own individual empowerment and autonomy over their own lives. The supports provided are determined and requested by the person and/or their support network. Plainfield Community Homes employs close to 200 people and is mainly funded by the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ministry of Culture, receives annually \$100 million of government funding generated through Ontario’s Charity Casino Initiative. The Foundation provides grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts, culture, sports, recreation, environment and social service sectors.

