



\$255,000 OTF Grant from the Ontario Government Supports Community Healing and Collective Care

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Ottawa, ON – On Thursday, representatives from Project Agape spoke about what’s happened as a result of the group receiving a \$255,000 Youth Opportunities Fund grant in 2023 from the provincial government’s Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The three-year grant was used to deliver *Let It Heal*, a six-week healing and wellness series, the Let it Heal retreat and a three-season wellness and educational podcast titled “Take Up Space”. The project has helped to strengthen community connections, enhance emotional well-being and increase access to culturally rooted healing spaces for Black women and Black gender-diverse people across Ottawa.

“Project Agape is doing essential work to support Black survivors of gender-based violence through care, community, and culturally grounded healing,” said Lucille Collard, Programs like *Let It Heal* create space for recovery, connection, and dignity, and ensure that Black voices and experiences are not overlooked. I’m proud to see Ontario Trillium Foundation funding support this important, community-led work here in Ottawa.”

Let It Heal is a free, six-week healing and wellness series rooted in care, joy, and connection. Participants join weekly workshops on healing journeys, pleasure, boundaries, and reclaiming joy, all within a supportive environment created by Black facilitators for Black community members. The program also includes an overnight retreat focused on rest, reflection, and community care, offering participants space to slow down, reconnect with themselves, and find grounding in collective healing.

“Project Agape is grateful to have received this funding over the last three years to sustain our work and grow our impact within Ontario. OTF’s funding has put Black, survivor-centred work on the map and enhanced our efforts to support Black survivors and uplift the gender-based violence prevention movement in Canada.”

Project Agape is a Black survivor-led organization based in Ottawa. Our mission is to support and promote wellness, care, and safety for Black survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), while advancing intersectional education and community advocacy. Our work centres Black voices and ensures the experiences of Black survivors are not overlooked. Through healing circles, survivor wellness retreats, youth programs, and culturally anchored community initiatives, Project Agape creates spaces where Black survivors can reclaim joy, safety, and collective care.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Ontario government with a mission to build healthy and vibrant communities across the province. Last year, OTF invested nearly \$105M into 732 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Through the Youth Opportunities Fund, OTF invests in community-led projects that play an essential role in creating safe spaces, empowering youth and

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families, supporting career pathways, and addressing issues faced by our communities. Visit otf.ca to learn more.

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