

Settlement for Former Residents of Huronia Regional Centre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Living Ontario recognizes the great injustice suffered by people who had an intellectual disability and were sent away from their community to government run institutions over many decades. We applaud the former residents of Huronia Regional Centre who have pursued justice and secured a settlement with government for the harm done them.

The case was settled with \$35 million for claims of up to \$42,000 for each resident awarded on a point system of harm experienced. “It is hard to put a price tag on the harm done over the decades of institutionalization, but we take our lead from the former residents” says Chris Beesley, Chief Executive Officer, Community Living Ontario. “We look to the former residents who have led this class action lawsuit in pursuit of justice and recognition of the harm that was done to them to decide if the compensation offered is adequate.”

Community Living Ontario welcomes the offer of an apology from the Government of Ontario. We know how important an apology is to the former residents. We know how important it is to finally have recognition of the harm that was done to the residents over the history of the institution. “The way residents were treated was appalling; it was wrong and inhumane and should never have happened,” says Beesley.

Community Living Ontario has long raised concern about the hundreds of people buried in the Huronia Regional Centre graveyard without name markers or with only a number over their grave. We welcome the inclusion in the settlement of an agreement to finally create a registry so we will know who is buried in that graveyard, and an agreement to properly maintain that site over time. This is a sign of respect for those who died in the institution that honours those who are gone and will bring comfort to all who have friends and family buried there.

Community Living Ontario represents over a hundred local associations across the province and 12,000 individuals and families of people who have intellectual disabilities.

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