

In this Newsletter Issue:

- NWT OHT Updates
 - Secretariat Staff Social: North York Harvest Food Bank
 - Meet Jaskaran, NWT OHT Community Connector
 - CCC Recruitment Call-Out
 - The HUB@2115 & TESS Lunch & Learn Series
- NWT OHT Partner Programs and Events
 - COSTI Programs
 - Community Well-Being & Wellness Event

NWT OHT Updates



Secretariat Staff Social: North York Harvest Food Bank

The NWT OHT Secretariat recently spent an afternoon volunteering at **North York Harvest Food Bank** as part of our staff social.

Our team rolled up our sleeves and worked together to sort **1,014 pounds of food**, helping support individuals and families experiencing food insecurity in our community. We're grateful to have contributed to the important work happening every day at North York Harvest Food Bank and look forward to volunteering again soon!



Meet Jaskaran, the NWT OHT's Community Connector

Jaskaran Gill is a community engagement and outreach professional with close to 10 years of experience in client engagement and partnership development. She is passionate about connecting people in underserved communities to programs and services within the social services sector.

In partnership with Reconnect Health Services, the NWT OHT Community Connector works with residents to navigate health and social services, connect to primary care, stay up to date on cancer screening, and access programs and supports that promote overall health and well-being. We welcome opportunities to introduce this role to community members through outreach events and community partnerships.

Jaskaran recently visited the **Yorkwoods Salvation Army Church** to connect with community members, build relationships, and share information about available supports and services. Through outreach like this, our Community Connector helps strengthen local partnerships and ensure residents know where to turn when they need support!



Client, Caregiver & Community Member Recruitment Call-Out

Would you like an opportunity to shape the future of health and social care services in North West Toronto?

We are welcoming Clients, Caregivers, and Community (CCC) members who want to share their voices and make a difference. There are many ways to engage and provide your insights; through surveys, focus groups and participation in working groups. Your role will be crucial in ensuring that the perspectives of clients, caregivers and community members are integrated into the work of the NWT OHT.

If this sounds like something you'd like to be part of, please complete the onboarding form on our website.

[Click here to visit the CCC page on our website and learn more](#)

Strengthening Connections Through Our Lunch & Learn Series

As part of our commitment to integrated care and strong community partnerships, the NWT OHT recently partnered with **Toronto Employment & Social Services (TESS)** to host a Lunch & Learn session on Ontario Works for case workers, community navigators, discharge planners, social workers, and other community service providers.

Held on July 7, the session provided an overview of Ontario Works, including financial assistance, employment supports, referral pathways, and community resources available to help individuals and families access needed supports.

Resources shared during the session, including information on Ontario Works and community supports, are available on our website. We encourage you to use and share these tools with colleagues who support clients navigating social and financial services:

[Click here to learn more](#)



Coming This Fall: The NWT OHT will be launching a new Lunch & Learn series focused on key social, legal, and financial resources. These sessions are designed to build knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and equip service providers with practical tools to better connect people with the supports they need.

Stay tuned for upcoming session details. If your organization is interested in partnering with us or presenting at a future session, please contact tbudhoo@hrh.ca.

NWT OHT Partner Programs and Events



COSTI RAP Counsellor Recognized for Community Impact

Marian Thompson, General Counsellor with COSTI's Resettlement Assistance Program (RAP), was recognized with a Community Recognition Award at the 30+ Years in Canada Anniversary Gala in Ottawa on July 25, 2026, for her dedication and service to newcomers. Throughout her career, she has supported many individuals and families arriving from East Africa, including those with complex needs, helping them navigate settlement challenges and begin new chapters with compassion, dignity and care.



COSTI Scholarships 2026/27

COSTI is inviting applications for COSTI Scholarships 2026/27.

Four academic scholarships totalling \$12,000 in funding are available for current and former COSTI clients through the WCPD Foundation Scholarship Fund and the Vittoria Adhami Immigrant Women's Scholarship Fund.

Application deadline: Friday, September 4, 2026

[Click here to learn more and to apply](#)

LEF Annual Community Well-Being & Wellness Event

The Learning Enrichment Foundation (LEF), in partnership with the International Doctors Network and MNLC, is hosting their Annual Community Well-Being & Wellness Event.

This free event will bring together more than 10 community organizations offering information, resources, and services that support health and well-being. Attendees can connect with local service providers, explore community resource booths, and participate in wellness workshops covering topics such as parenting, healthy habits, gender-based violence, stress relief, and self-care.

Date: Thursday, September 10, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: 116 Industry Street, ON M6M 4L8

For more information, contact newcomers@lefca.org.



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