

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**December 11th 2024**

## **\$26,000 OTF Grant from the Ontario Government Gives a Company of Fools a Lift**

**Ottawa, ON** – On Wednesday, a Company of Fools held their Annual General Meeting where they recognized the \$26,000 Resilient Communities Fund grant from the provincial government's Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) that was used to employ a Development Officer for the duration of their summer season. The project was created to generate more revenue and sponsorship for the company.

"This Ontario Trillium Foundation funding has had a positive impact on our development capacity, which in turn has had a direct effect on the quality of our artistic work, allowing us to increase programming and share the gift of arts and culture with more people in our community than ever before." said Kate Smith, Artistic Director of a Company of Fools.

Thanks to the \$26,000 OTF grant, a Company of Fools was able to employ a Development Officer who worked to secure summer sponsorship and additional revenue in support of the company's Torchlight Shakespeare-in-the-Park summer tour. Thanks to the success of the Development Officer's work, the Company has budgeted to make this a permanent position in 2025, furthering the company's capacity-building and creating another full-time position within Ottawa's arts & culture sector.

"We are so grateful to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for their generous support in allowing us to hire a Development Specialist who worked throughout our summer season to secure us sponsorship, build relationships in our community, and strengthened the company's financial standing. Thanks to the Development Specialist's work, we were able to bring accessible theatre across Ottawa with an even greater level of effectiveness than in past years," said Caity Smyck, General Manager

a Company of Fools, Ottawa's longest-running professional Shakespeare company, is a registered charity that presents innovative, entertaining, and accessible shows based on the works of William Shakespeare annually for pay-what-you-can admission.

"Whether it's helping people learn new things, connect with their community, or simply have fun, organizations like a Company of Fools deliver experiences that make a difference," said Stan Cho, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming. "That's why grant support through the Ontario Trillium Foundation is so important. This funding will help ensure they remain at the heart of the community for decades to come."

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 more than \$110M into 1,044 community projects and multi-sector partnerships. Projects aim to enhance economic well-being, foster more active lifestyles, support child and youth development, provide spaces for people to come together and connect, and create a more sustainable environment. Visit [otf.ca](https://otf.ca) to learn more.



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