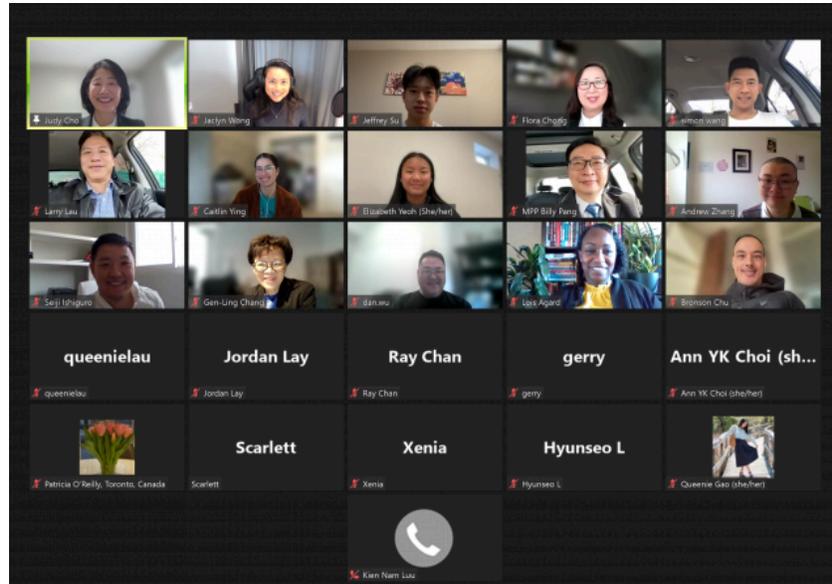


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Title: Ontario Trillium Foundation Funds East Asian Youth Ambassador Program

Article: Ontario Trillium Foundation funded “Live Well, Take Action” East Asian Youth Ambassadors Program \$317,000

Ontario MPP Billy Pang and Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) volunteer Simon Wang had a virtual meeting with two organizations to talk about the impact of the program to the region on Friday. This program is called "Live Well, Take Action" Youth Ambassador Program, which has been funded \$317,000 grant since 2018. Organizations that have participated in the program over the past four years include the ALPHA Education and the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter (CCNCTO).

"'Live Well, Take Action' is a timely initiative that has impressed me by developing leadership of East Asian Canadian youth and addressing issues such as anti-Asian racism," said Bill Pang, MPP for Markham-Unionville. "I would like to thank the organization and its volunteers for their contribution to promoting social change.

"The Live Well, Take Action" East Asian Youth Ambassador Program aims to empower East Asian youth to contribute to social change through exploring their identities. 2022 marks the fourth year that the program has partnered with schools on York Region District School Board. Grants are used for staffing, administration, purchasing, and supplies, as well as for organizing virtual workshops and programs over the four years.

"The 'Live Well, Take Action' program acknowledged this need from Asian youth and is dedicated to supporting and inspiring these students. We are delighted to finally hear their voices and needs." said Flora Chong, Executive Director of the ALPHA Education.

Through cultural approaches and community activities, the program centers on the East Asian experience to build confidence and promote well-being. It also focuses on developing students' skills in communication, critical thinking, health promotion and community development. As part of the program's completion, they create projects to raise awareness of issues affecting Asian communities, such as racism, mental health, etc. Over the past few years, program ambassadors have created more than 50 projects that have been shared with schools and communities in the Greater Toronto Area. To date, 150 students from seven high schools on YRDSB have become ambassadors. This year, there are over 80 participants from four more schools.

Jessie Tang, Executive Director of the Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter further added: "The grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation has had a positive and sustainable impact on our community. "The 'Live Well, Take Action' program provides a safe and supportive learning space for Asian youth to learn about racism, mental health and many other issues. We appreciate the efforts of the government in understanding the need and commitment to address such challenges."

The ALPHA Education is a non-profit and registered charity in Canada that promotes a critical-historical inquiry of World War II in Asia that contributes to peace and reconciliation. Its mission is a commitment to humanity and global peace.

The Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter (CCNCTO) is an organization of Chinese Canadians in the City of Toronto that promotes equity, social justice, inclusive civic participation, and respect for diversity.

The "Live Well, Take Action" program will have its final Student Celebration on Thursday, April 28, 2022 (postponed to May 26th, 2022). This is a public event that brings everyone together to acknowledge the great efforts of the students. For more information about the program, please visit www.livewelltakeaction.com or follow its social media accounts (Instagram: @livewelltakeaction and Twitter: @lwta_program).

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. Last year, nearly \$112 million was invested in 1,384 community projects and partnerships to build healthy and vibrant communities and strengthen the impact of Ontario's not-profit sector. In 2020 and 2021, OTF is supporting the recovery of economic in Ontario by helping non-profits recover and rebuild in the aftermath of COVID-19.

Translation Credit: Chuck Li

