

Pathways Health Centre for Children

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January 3, 2023

Pathways Celebrates New Playground

Sarnia, ON – On Wednesday December 21st, 2022, local MP Marilyn Gladu and MPP Bob Bailey attended Pathways Health Centre for Children to tour the recently completed playground and visit the C.A.C.H.E Childcare. With funding coming from a number of sources, Pathways was able to complete the accessible playground refurbishment that showcases a nature theme.

An "Enabling Accessibility Fund Grant" from the Federal Government supported the installation of a variety of features that align with Pathways' priority of being leaders in accessibility in the community. Funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services and other sources also supported the project that has child favourite features like "toad stool" and "tree stump" stepping stools and a large butterfly, as well as sensory walls and textured structures for climbing, sliding and crawling. Surfaces for wheelchairs and walkers surround all the features and wind through the playground. Sails and new trees provide shade, and new grasses and digging areas provide space for sinking in to nature!

"Families and staff had input into the design that passed through many phases, and we are proud of the end result! The playground design company "New World Park Solutions Inc" delivered on the vision and brought the playground to life!", shared Karen McClintock, Director of Community Services.

The new playground will be used daily by toddlers and preschool children who attend the C.A.C.H.E Childcare program. The new playground will also be available for use by clinicians working with clients of Pathways who will benefit from therapy activities in the naturalistic and motivating environment.

"One can't overstate the power of these grants and funds to move forward with identified priorities that are rarely able to be managed within operational budgets. As a leader in childhood development and rehabilitation services, updates to our playground that align with natural and accessible environments means we are providing among the best spaces for children to grow and learn," said Alison Morrison, Chief Executive Officer of Pathways Health Centre for Children. "The best part of the project was reopening the gates to the playground, after several weeks of construction. Both the children and the teachers were beaming!"

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