

## MEDIA RELEASE

June 27, 2019

### **\$375,000 OTF Grant Helps Newcomer Women to Graduate from Sewing Program**

**Ottawa, Ontario** – On Thursday, EcoEquitable held their annual graduation and fashion show for their award-winning Sewing for Jobs program. The program helps immigrant, refugee, and underemployed women find the skills they need to break into the workforce. EcoEquitable welcomed members of the public and family members of the designers to see the pieces that they had worked on over their time in the course. Sarah Laliberté, a representative from MPP Nathalie Des Rosiers' Constituency Office was on hand to congratulate EcoEquitable and its graduates and hear more about how the \$375,000 Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) Grow grant is making a difference in the community.

#### **Quotes:**

"EcoEquitable is a model social enterprise. It transforms lives and saves our environment. I want to salute the commitment of volunteers and the hard work of everyone. Congratulations to all of the graduates!"

– Nathalie De Rosiers, MPP for Ottawa-Vanier

"EcoEquitable is a place where women come to transform their lives. It is women crafting a better story – for themselves, for their families, and for their communities. We are so thrilled to be part of their journey and to support them in their pathway to economic independence."

– Anouk Bertner, Executive Director, EcoEquitable

#### **Quick facts:**

- Grant allows for more participants in the Sewing for Jobs program; some women face economic hardships and therefore would not be able to pay the class fees, with a grant like that from The Ontario Trillium Foundation, we can help more women through and out of these situations.
- Sewing for Jobs can give women who feel isolated a sense of both community and self-sufficiency in their own lives
- 87% of Sewing for Jobs alumni reported an increased hope score.
- In addition to Sewing for Jobs, EcoEquitable also houses public sewing classes, a recycled fabric boutique staffed by volunteers and Sewing for Jobs students, as well as an in-house bag and accessory line that uses recycled provincial banners (*Flagbearer*).
- For more information, please visit the EcoEquitable [website](#), [Facebook page](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#).
- The [Ontario Trillium Foundation](#) (OTF) is an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations. OTF awarded more than \$120 million to some 700 projects last year to build healthy and vibrant communities in Ontario.

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#### **Supporting links:**

- [Ontario Trillium Foundation](#)
- Learn more about OTF's [Investment Strategy](#)

