

# Generations Connected at Perley Health



Sharing news about the Intergenerational Early Learning Centre

Edition 10  
June 5, 2026

Welcome to the tenth edition of our **Generations Connected** newsletter, your home for project schedules, safety measures, programming information and opportunities to support.

Andrew Fleck Children's Services Intergenerational Early Learning Centre at Perley Health is a partnership between Perley Health, which provides a community of care and services for Seniors and Veterans; the Perley Health Foundation, which raises and manages funds to support programs, services, and capital needs; and Andrew Fleck Children's Services (AFCS), a non-profit organization that operates child care centres across the region.

Read recent updates and visit our webpage: [PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected](https://PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected)

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## Andrew Fleck Children's Services:

### A Long History of Early Learning and Family Support in Ottawa

By: **Kim Hiscott, CEO, Andrew Fleck Children's Services**

As we prepare to open the Intergenerational Early Learning Centre at Perley Health, it feels like the right moment to reflect on the long history of Andrew Fleck Children's Services and the values that continue to guide our work today.

Founded in 1911, [AFCS](#) is now one of the oldest and most diversified early learning, child care, and family support organizations in Ontario. Like Perley Health, our organization was shaped by community-minded Ottawa citizens who recognized the importance of care, connection, and service.



Mrs. Andrew Fleck, one of our founding members and the daughter of Ottawa lumber baron J.R. Booth, joined other women in the community who recognized that mothers entering the workforce needed safe, supportive spaces for their children during the day. Unlike many early child care organizations in Ontario, AFCS did not begin as an orphanage. From the beginning, our focus was on creating meaningful early learning experiences for young children.

For many years, the organization was known as the Ottawa Day Nursery. Our Memorial Building at the corner of King Edward and George Street, built in 1932, is considered the oldest purpose-built child care centre in Canada. The land and funding for the building were donated by Gertrude Fleck in memory of her husband, with the understanding that it would always serve children and families.

## Generations Connected at Perley Health

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While our programs have grown and evolved over the years, our focus has remained the same: creating environments where children and families feel a strong sense of belonging, and where relationships are at the centre of everything we do.

That spirit of innovation continues today. AFCS continues to connect research with practice, develop programs that reflect the unique needs of each community, and intentionally create opportunities for connection, including intergenerational programming like the one we are building together at Perley Health.

There is something powerful about bringing generations together through everyday moments. Over time, those small interactions can grow into meaningful relationships. Children begin to recognize familiar faces and feel part of a wider community. Residents, in turn, share their stories, experiences, and presence in ways that can be deeply meaningful.

We also know that none of this happens without educators. Supporting early childhood educators is a core part of our work. When educators feel valued and supported, it strengthens the experiences we are able to offer children and families.

The impact of early learning shows up over time. It is reflected in the confidence children build, the trust families develop, and the steady relationships that form day by day.

As we open this new centre, we are looking forward to becoming part of the Perley Health community. We are excited to learn, build relationships, and create a space where children, residents, families, and educators all feel a sense of belonging.

Want to learn more about AFCS history? Explore [A Local Success Story: Celebrating 100 Years](#), published in 2011, and watch [archival footage from the 1930s](#) that captures some of our earliest work supporting children and families in Ottawa.



**Andrew Fleck Children's Services Intergenerational Early Learning Centre at Perley Health Update**

**Project Completion: 97%**

## Intergenerational Early Learning Centre Evaluations Ongoing



The Perley Health Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care™ is in the process of completing a rigorous evaluation on the new Andrew Fleck Children's Services Intergenerational Early Learning Centre at Perley Health. Dr. Annie Robitaille, Commissionaire Ottawa Research Chair and Associate Professor at the University of Ottawa, is leading a study to understand the impact of the Intergenerational Early Learning Centre on older adults, Veterans, and the Perley Health community.

Dr. Robitaille's study will provide valuable insight into how to refine program structures and operational workflow prior to the Intergenerational Early Learning Centre opening. The Centre of Excellence is collaborating with numerous researchers and students to explore the diverse perspectives and benefits of participating in the program on residents, Veterans, tenants, volunteers, children, staff, care partners, parents, and community partners. Batool Hayajneh, a Master of Design student at Carleton University supervised by Professor Chantal Trudel, is developing a Post-Occupancy Evaluation (POE) toolkit for the future Intergenerational Early Learning Centre. The toolkit is intended to support the assessment of the physical environment after occupancy and help ensure the space meets the needs of children, older adults, families, staff, and the broader community.

In collaboration with Andrew Fleck Children's services, Dr. Maeghan James, Assistant Professor in the School of Epidemiology and Public Health (SEPH) at the University of Ottawa, will be evaluating how the program impacts children and families. Dr. James and Master of Public Health student, Maeve Kinsman, will explore children's perspectives on the program as well as how their health and development changes over time. Findings and lessons learned from the research projects will be continuously shared with program facilitators to ensure community feedback is integrated into the program. The evaluation will continue once the program opens.

## Thank you for helping bring the Intergenerational Early Learning Centre to life.

In just a few weeks, the halls of the Intergenerational Early Learning Centre will fill with children's voices, curious questions, shared stories, and the kind of everyday moments that bring people together.

For years, this was an idea. A vision. Today, it stands ready to open its doors because people like you believed in it. Thank you!

You've helped create a place where friendships can grow across generations, where residents and children can brighten one another's days, and where connection will be part of everyday life.

We can't wait to share what happens next. Thank you for making it possible.

If you would like to make a gift to the Bridging Generations Campaign, there is still time.

### Ways to give:

- Online at [PerleyHealthFoundation.ca/bridging-generations](https://PerleyHealthFoundation.ca/bridging-generations)
- Call the Foundation office at 613-526-7173
- Visit the Foundation office 8:00 am - 4:00 pm, Monday – Friday

We are deeply grateful for your support.

### Tracy Holmes, CFRE

Annual Giving Program Manager

## Your Safety is Our Top Priority

Your safety is paramount throughout this construction project. Please help us keep everyone safe by paying close attention to all signs and following all safety directions in and around construction areas.

Free hearing protection is available from the Support Services offices on the second floor of the Perley Centre for anyone affected by the noise disruptions construction may cause.

## Stay Informed

We frequently produce two newsletters: one provides construction updates and the second is dedicated to all topics related to the Intergenerational Early Learning Centre.

**Print:** Copies are available throughout the Perley Health community.

### Online:

1. Visit our Generations Connected webpage for updates, FAQs and more: [PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected](https://PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected)
2. Access the Construction Newsletter: [PerleyHealth.ca/public-announcement](https://PerleyHealth.ca/public-announcement)

For questions or concerns, please contact [info@PerleyHealth.ca](mailto:info@PerleyHealth.ca)

