

Generations Connected at Perley Health



Sharing news about the Intergenerational Child Care program

Edition 2
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Celebration Launches Next Phase of Intergenerational Child Care at Perley Health

A project more than five years in the making officially broke ground on Monday, September 8, as Perley Health hosted a ceremony for the Perley Health Intergenerational Child Care, a program of Andrew Fleck Children's Services. The new centre will establish 49 licensed child care spaces and, more importantly, create daily, meaningful opportunities for seniors, Veterans, and young children to connect through shared activities, mealtimes, and play.

More than 100 people attended the event, including Ottawa Mayor Mark Sutcliffe, MPPs John Fraser and George Darouze, and City Councillor Marty Carr. Mayor Sutcliffe called the project "really magical and special," emphasizing the profound connections that emerge when children and older adults interact. "It's going to be really remarkable for everyone involved," he told CTV, one of many media organizations to attend the ceremony.

This is a bold, innovative step for long-term care, and Perley Health staff will have priority access to this childcare. The new, purpose-built space will feature adaptive furniture and enhanced accessibility, ensuring that people of all ages and abilities can participate comfortably and fully. As Andrew Fleck Children's Services CEO Kim Hiscott noted, "The benefits for children are clear. They develop empathy, patience, and confidence. They learn from the stories, traditions, and wisdom of older adults. And they gain a lasting sense of community and belonging that will stay with them throughout their lives."

The concept builds on the success of a two-year pilot playgroup program between Perley Health and Andrew Fleck Children's Services, which showed the benefits of connecting generations. Those many benefits will also be studied by Perley Health Centre of Excellence in Frailty-Informed Care™, leading research into this intergenerational program.

It is thanks to the Perley Health Foundation's ongoing Bridging Generations campaign that this vision is becoming a reality. The campaign has currently raised \$1.2 million toward its \$2 million goal. As Executive Director Delphine Haslé explains, "Through Perley Health's Centre of Excellence, the lessons we learn here will be shared across the country. Others will follow — because no one should be denied the healing power of intergenerational connection."

With construction underway since July, the centre is on track to open in spring 2026; promising to foster connections, elicit joy, and bridge generations for years to come.

For construction updates, please visit our website and watch for our regular updates:

PerleyHealth.ca/construction-news

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Some of the memories from the celebration at Perley Health on September 8.

Join the Bridging Generations Campaign

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who joined us for the historic groundbreaking ceremony of the Perley Health Intergenerational Child Care, a program of Andrew Fleck Children's Services. Your presence made this milestone moment truly memorable.



This achievement would not have been possible without the generous support, dedication, and shared vision of our incredible community partners and donors. From initial planning to groundbreaking, your commitment has been unwavering. Your belief in this project has brought us to this exciting moment, and we are deeply grateful for every contribution, large and small. Thank you for standing with us and making this dream a reality.

To continue supporting this transformative project, please consider making a donation by phone at 613-526-7173, online at PerleyHealthFoundation.ca/bridging-generations, or in person at the **Perley Health Foundation** offices between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Age Groupings in Childcare: Where Does My Child Fit?

Once open, the Perley Health Intergenerational Child Care, a program of Andrew Fleck Children's Services, will welcome children from birth until they meet the age criteria for kindergarten eligibility. In Ontario, this means children can start Junior kindergarten as early as 3.8 years old by September 1st of the school year. In Quebec, children must be at least 4 years old by September 30th of the school year to attend kindergarten.

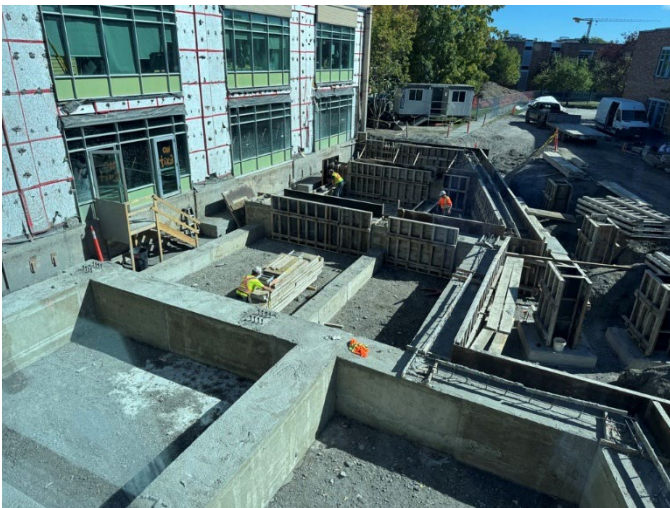
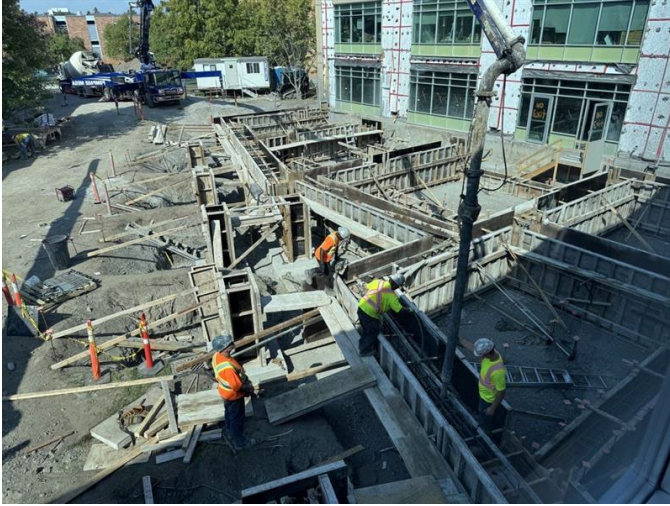


- The Infant program has 10 spaces for children aged 3 months to 18 months.
- The Toddler program has 15 spaces for children 18 months to 2.5 years old.
- The Preschool program has 24 spaces for children 2.5 years old until they are eligible for their first year of kindergarten.

Although the Child Care & Early Years Act categorizes children by age groups, the Registered Early Childhood Educators design programs based on children's skills and interests. The environment and activities help children grow and build new skills naturally through a play-based approach.

Educators spend time observing what children are curious about, what skills are mastered, and which skills are emerging. They then create opportunities to pursue some of these curiosities, and practice new and developing skills. Once toddlers have mastered walking and running, for example, we often see an increased interest in jumping or climbing. To support this, the teaching team will plan more opportunities for gross motor and big muscle play that involve a bit more height or require lots of jumping so that every child can join in the fun, regardless of their skill level.

For questions or comments, please email info@PerleyHealth.ca.



Photos of the outdoor construction area.

For up-to-date information and to read answers to frequently asked questions, please visit our webpage:

PerleyHealth.ca/generations-connected