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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**June 24, 2023**

**Wrestling club rebounds on the national stage with help from two Ontario Trillium Foundation grants**

**Ottawa, ON** – On Saturday June 24, the National Capital Wrestling Club (NCWC) celebrated \$48,400 in funding they received through two grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) which allowed the NCWC to better address community needs and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation have played an important role in the overall efforts made by the Ontario Government to help the province navigate through the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic gave us." said Goldie Ghamari, Member of Provincial Parliament for Carleton. "We realized the importance that strong amateur athletics programs have in our communities. Clubs like NCWC give our young athletes a place to train and compete and develop life skills through sports that will make them outstanding citizens and leaders in the years to come."

A \$10,500 Resilient Communities grant was first awarded in March 2022 to assist with recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. The funds allowed coaching and first aid training for Club volunteers, expanding video content, a full French translation of its website, and promotional signage to recruit new members. The grant also funded a strategic planning process which was completed earlier this month and has allowed NCWC to regain members, expanding its offerings for older athletes, beginner-level wrestlers, and the Francophone community.

"Congratulations to the National Capital Wrestling Club and thank you to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for these grants. This support has been significant in helping the club recover from the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The investments made in several areas have not only enhanced the club's offerings but also contributed to the growth and development of wrestlers of all ages and backgrounds. The National Capital Wrestling Club is a shining example of how grants from the Ontario Trillium Foundation can make a lasting impact in our communities," said MPP Lucille Collard.

In November 2022, NCWC was also awarded a \$37,900 Capital grant to enable the Club to better address community needs by purchasing additional wrestling mats. This investment in new sports equipment has allowed the Club to keep members safe while expanding day-to-day programming and will be featured at the 2024 National Wrestling Trials at TD Place.

"Recent support from OTF has been key to NCWC's successful return to play following COVID-19 shutdowns," said Chris Schrauwen, Head Coach of NCWC. "The funding for mats has made it possible to bring national-level events to Ottawa, and we are excited to have many new recruits who are already prepared for this level of competition."

NCWC is committed to providing fun opportunities to grow and develop for wrestlers of all ages, experience levels and backgrounds. For more information including for prospective members, please visit: <https://nationalcapitalwrestling.com/>

The Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF), an agency of the Government of Ontario, and one of Canada's leading granting foundations celebrates 40 years of grant-making in Ontario and making a lasting impact in communities. Last year, OTF invested over \$110M into 1,022 community projects and partnerships. Visit [otf.ca](https://otf.ca) to learn more.

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