

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Ontario Charity Establishing a National Social Enterprise to Expand Services

November 30, 2023 (Scarborough) - Community Family Services of Ontario (CFSO) is proud to announce the establishment of its newly established social impact organization – Uplift & Innovation Commons (UNI-Commons), to expand service capacity for East Asian Canadians.

UNI-Commons aims to offer a continuum of services that wraps around the social determinants of health for the community designed to help clients rebuild lives physically, socially, emotionally, financially, academically, professionally, and civically. Services cover mainly the following 3 areas:

LIVING: Counselling & Psychotherapy, Family Services, Marriage Preparation, Marital Mediation, Parenting Education, Anger Management, Youth Mental Health, Disabilities & Special Needs Rehab, Career Counselling, and Immigrant Support.

LEARNING: Job Skills Training, Professional Development, Language Coaching, Communications Skills Training, Life Skills Training, and International Credentials Bridging.

LEADING: Mentorship, Clinical Supervision, Research, Self-Help Tools Production, Best Practices Development, Knowledge Mobilization, and Media & Advocacy Work.

UNI-Commons CEO Dr. Anna Victoria Wong explained, “The establishment of UNI-Commons is an effective way to address service gaps for individuals who are ineligible for government-funded services at CFSO, and provide an option for those who can afford or have insurance coverage to access service outside of the CFSO wait list. By having UNI-Commons as a new income source starting 2023.12.01, CFSO will become more sustainable and less dependent on taxpayer money.”

Incorporated under the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act* in 2023, Uplift & Innovation Commons (UNI-Commons) is a registered non-profit, social impact organization that promotes emotional, social, and financial wellness and independence by facilitating sustainable cycles of service provision and Resource development, learning for skill building and Mentorship for capacity building, and vision realization and Insight mobilization. Powered by talents in mental health, rehabilitation, relationship wellness, immigrant service, socio-recreation, language and job skill training, UNI-Commons thrives to **uplift** psychosocial well-being, **innovate** service improvements, and lead a safe **learning commons** for sharing, advocacy, and engagement.

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