



News Release

For Immediate Release

December 5, 2011

TRILLIUM FOUNDATION SHOULD STRENGTHEN GRANT MANAGEMENT PROCESSES: AUDITOR GENERAL

(TORONTO) The Ontario Trillium Foundation, which distributes grants to not-for-profit and charitable organizations, should beef up its processes to ensure that the most worthy projects are funded, and for reasonable amounts, Auditor General Jim McCarter says in his *2011 Annual Report*.

“As worthy as these projects might be, we found that there was often little documentation to show that grants were awarded only after the Foundation has objectively assessed the relative merits of proposed projects and the amounts requested,” McCarter said today after the Report was released. “This is important when more than \$100 million in grants is distributed each year.”

The Foundation, established in 1982 as an agency of the Ontario government, has a mission to build “healthy and vibrant communities throughout Ontario by strengthening the capacity of the voluntary sector, through investments in community-based initiatives.”

In the 2010/11 fiscal year, the Foundation distributed about 1,500 grants worth more than \$110 million to not-for-profit and charitable organizations working in human and social services, arts and culture, environment, and sports and recreation.

The Auditor General’s significant findings included the following:

- The Foundation has a well-defined application and review process for deciding which applicants receive grants. However, the accompanying documentation often did not demonstrate that the most worthy projects were funded for reasonable amounts.
- Many grant recipients in our sample could not provide evidence of how they had spent their Foundation grants; nor could they substantiate the results they reported to the Foundation.
- The Foundation’s website was comprehensive and informative but more could be done to inform community organizations of the availability of grants.

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