



**MEDIA ADVISORY
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Toronto, May 30, 2018

Child Development Institute marks 50 years of Towhee with exciting anniversary celebration!

On Saturday, June 16, 2018, five decades of Towhee success will be marked with a festive anniversary celebration in Haliburton, Ont. Delivered by Toronto-based **Child Development Institute**, Towhee is a summer residential camp program that supports the needs of children and adolescents living with mental health issues complicated by learning disabilities (LDMH).

Highlighting acceptance and belonging in an enriched and therapeutic learning environment, the celebration will see counsellors new and old, parents and former campers, reconnect in a place where their lives were transformed.

“It’s been 50 years of memories and magic,” says CDI’s Towhee Program Manager Nicola Bangham. “For many, Towhee signifies the moment of positive change in the trajectory of their lives.” Adds Bangham: “Being in an environment where you truly belong and discover your gifts and strengths can significantly change and improve how one feels about oneself.”

Since its inception in 1968, Towhee has been improving the mental health of children and youth with learning disabilities; empowering them with self-esteem, self-independence, and a sense of belonging through group exercises and specialized programming.

Towhee’s 50th Anniversary Celebration will take over its Haliburton, Ont., campsite with art and music activities; a challenging ropes course; decade-designated meeting spots; a camp fire on the field, and a BBQ lunch on the beach! Event guests will also receive a commemorative Camp Towhee 50th Anniversary patch, and have the opportunity to catch up with old friends at a place they once called home.

WHEN: Saturday, June 16, 2018, from 11 am to 6 pm

WHERE: Towhee, located at 1393 Camp Towhee Road, Haliburton, Ont.

WHY: Child Development Institute dedicates each day to helping children, youth and families transform their lives through innovative, evidence-informed programs and services. Towhee is a therapeutic residential program for children and youth with learning disabilities and mental health issues. Over the past 50 years, Towhee has helped youth develop their self-confidence and sense of belonging, as well as their social, emotional and physical well-being through arts-based and adventure-based programming.

HOW: Towhee's 50th Anniversary Celebration in Haliburton, Ont., is \$20 for adults and FREE for children aged 8 and under. Tickets and special anniversary merchandise are available for purchase at camptowhee.ca. Tickets that include bus transportation to and from the event are also available.

For more information, or to request an interview with Towhee Program Manager Nicola Bangham, email spanetta@childdevelop.ca, or call 416-603-1827, ext. 2273.

ABOUT CHILD DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Child Development Institute (CDI) is an accredited children's mental health organization mandated with the mission to support the healthy development of children, youth and their families. A leader in the field, CDI develops and delivers world-class, evidence-informed mental health programs and services across four streams (Early Intervention Services, Family Violence Services, LDMH Programming and Healthy Child Development). Recognized for its innovation and excellence in child development, CDI is committed to transforming the landscape of children's mental health through continuous process improvement, research and training. For more information about CDI, please visit: childdevelop.ca.

ABOUT TOWHEE

Towhee is a summer residential program delivered by Child Development Institute (CDI). CDI is an accredited children's mental health centre in Canada specializing in the treatment of children, youth and their families who are dealing with mental health issues complicated by learning disabilities (LDMH).

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