



## **Habilitas Foundation Makes History by launching Quebec' First Smilezone** ***A transformation of Lethbridge-Layton-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre's*** ***Pediatrics Technical Aids Service reception area***

**Montreal, Quebec – December 5, 2024** – Habilitas Foundation is proud to announce the launch of Lethbridge-Layton-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre's (LLMRC) newly renovated reception area in the Pediatrics Technical Aids Service department. This department assesses, designs, and produces specialized mobility aides and trains users on how to use them for optimal functionality.

This transformative project marks Smilezone Foundation's first-ever build in Quebec and combines Smilezone's commitment to creating welcoming, engaging spaces for young people, with Habilitas Foundation's mission of promoting equity, access, and inclusion for individuals of all ages living with physical disabilities.

Generously donated by Habilitas Foundation donors, the newly created Smilezone is thoughtfully designed to include vibrant colours, interactive technology, and uplifting artwork to provide a welcoming and stress-free environment for children facing medical challenges. These thoughtful additions aim to enhance the experience for children and families receiving services at the LLMRC, providing an environment that fosters comfort, joy, and healing and made possible thanks to the generosity of the Adair Family Foundation, Fondation Mirella et Lino Saputo, and Opération Enfant Soleil, as well as heartfelt contributions from across the community.

"We are deeply grateful for the generosity and expertise that went into creating the new spaces at the Pediatrics Technical Aids Service department," says Filomena Novello, Associate Director for Rehabilitation and Multidisciplinary Services at the CIUSSS West-Central Montreal, who oversees this department at LLMRC. "This beautiful renovation has created a vibrant and welcoming environment that fosters inclusivity and accessibility, and we are very proud to welcome our clients into such an engaging and joyful environment. We feel very lucky to have the Habilitas Foundation working on our behalf to bring projects like this to life."

"We are thrilled to unveil our first-ever Smilezone in the province of Quebec, marking an important milestone for our foundation," said Scott Bachly, Co-Founder of Smilezone Foundation. "This build would not have been possible without the generosity of Habilitas Foundation donors and partners, whose support has allowed us to create a bright, inclusive space at the Lethbridge-Layton-Mackay Rehabilitation Centre. By transforming this reception area, we hope to bring smiles and comfort to the many children and families who will benefit from these new resources."

This expansion to Quebec underscores Smilezone Foundation's commitment to enhancing healthcare experiences for children across Canada. By creating colourful, engaging areas tailored for children, Smilezone Foundation offers a comforting refuge where young patients and their families feel emotionally supported, promoting a more compassionate healthcare experience.

**ABOUT SMILEZONE FOUNDATION:**

Smilezone Foundation is a registered charity in Oakville, Ontario committed to improving the lives of children receiving medical treatment at health facilities across Canada. In 2012 founders Adam Graves and Scott Bachly were approached to make a financial contribution to the construction of a local hospital. Through partnerships with hospitals, community centers, and other organizations, Smilezone creates accessible, fun, and therapeutic environments where children can heal and thrive. Smilezone has transformed 400 spaces into Smilezones across Canada, benefiting over 83 communities and reaching more than 340,000 children annually. For more information, visit [www.smilezone.com](http://www.smilezone.com).

**ABOUT HABILITAS FOUNDATION:**

Habilitas Foundation raises money for, and partners with organizations serving people of all ages living with physical disabilities and sensory impairments. Habilitas Foundation is committed to collaborating with donors and partners to create a world that fosters equity, access, and inclusion for all. For more information, visit [habilitas.ca](http://habilitas.ca)

-30-

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