



# Community Services Guide



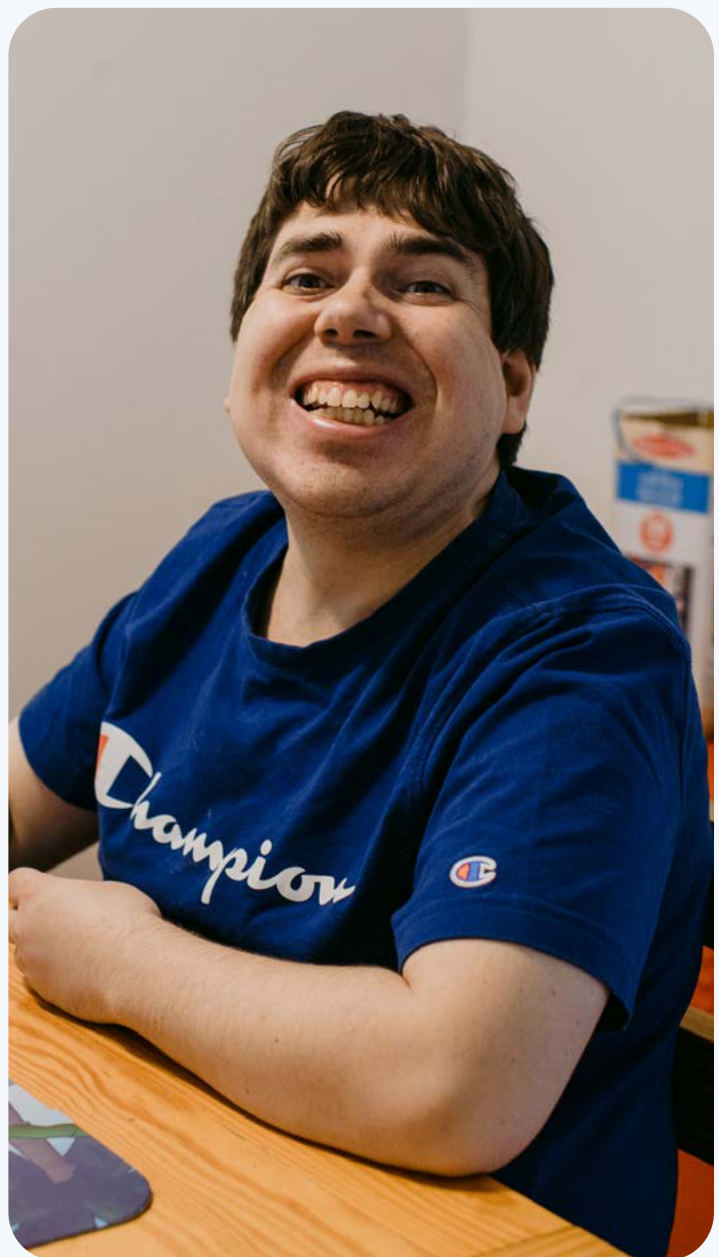
# WELCOME TO KERRY'S PLACE

**Creating a future where all Autistic people  
can participate fully in their communities.**

Kerry's Place is Canada's largest Autism services provider and the only one that serves the lifespan of Autistic individuals and their families. Over our 50 years, we've built locations and partnerships across southeastern Ontario to help Autistic people of any age or ability build skills, gain independence, make friendships, and achieve their goals.

Every Autistic person is unique - and every Autism diagnosis is unique. That's why we offer a wide range of customized Autism services and supports so we can better help you and your family navigate Autism from childhood to adulthood and every transition in between.

We do this by delivering individualized, evidence-based Autism supports and services, group programming, community involvement opportunities, camps and our fully Supported Living and Supported Independent Living services.



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# OUR SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Through the **Ontario Autism Program**, we provide children, youth, and their families, a range of evidence-based services needed to achieve their goals at home, at school, and in their communities, including skill-building groups, individual consultation, parent training and coaching, system navigation, and family support.

Kerry's Place is a leader in **Education and Training**. We proudly offer an array of workshops, seminars, and professional development courses geared toward understanding Autism.

Our **Consultation Services** help individuals and family members navigate the service system and provide information and resources related to Autism.

We provide numerous options for **Day and Overnight Respite** to give families a well-deserved break, along with our many camps, swim programs and leisure groups.

Our **Adult Services and Peer Support Groups** broaden skills and the social circle for every individual we support.

Our **Employment Programs** assist Autistic young adults to develop skills that lead to meaningful, lasting employment opportunities.

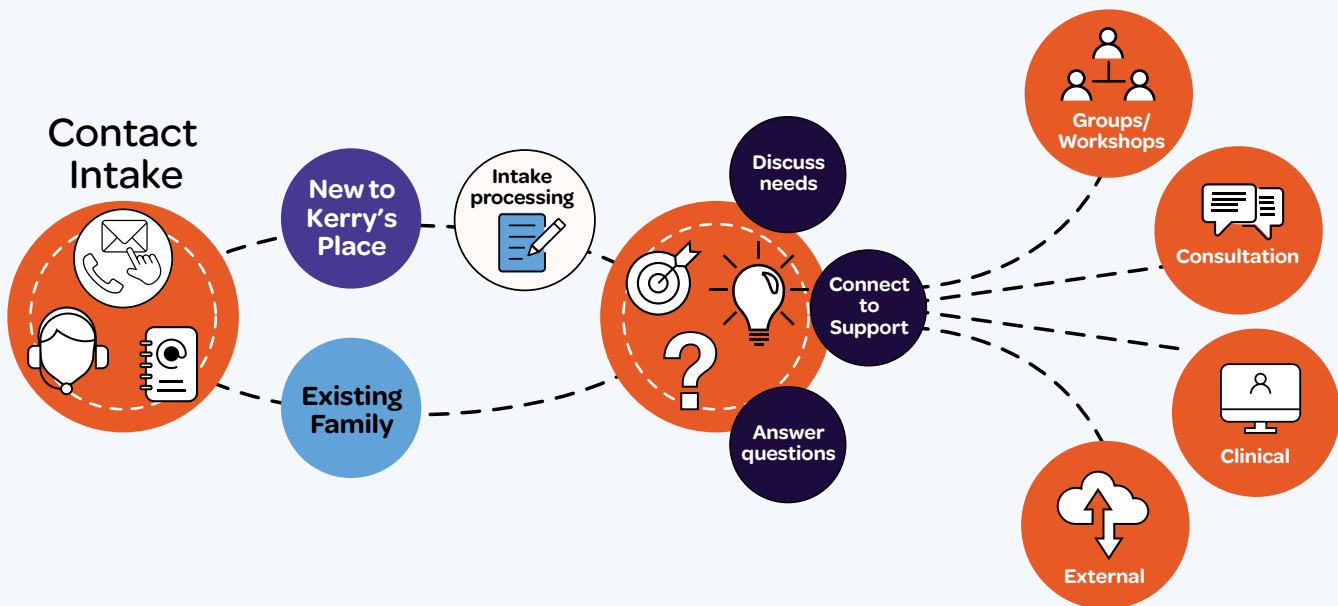
We also offer **Supported Living and Supported Independent Living** to Autistic adults across Ontario. Our group living approach provides a safe, 24-hour home environment where residents are encouraged to pursue their own personal goals including outings in the community, employment, athletics, hobbies and interests.





# Intake Services

At Kerry's Place, our **Intake Team** is the front door to accessing service. Our helpful, compassionate, and supportive staff take an individualized approach with every call and email received. The Intake Team will help you get connected to supports at Kerry's Place, as well as within your community, based upon your unique individual and family needs.



The Individuals receiving services from Kerry's Place must have a formal diagnosis of Autism from a qualified professional. More information, including our online **Intake Form and Service Agreement**, are available [here](#).

Interested in something you see here or need more information?

## Let's connect!

We have a team of Intake professionals ready to support you!

Email: [intake@kerrysplace.org](mailto:intake@kerrysplace.org)

Toll Free: **1-833-77-KERRY**  
**(1-833-775-3779)**

## Online Resource Portal



### Want to learn more about Autism?

Visit our online portal of resources and videos to discover helpful guides, visuals, and training videos that can be explored at your own pace. These resources are available [here](#) to discover, print, and share. New materials are added regularly, so be sure to check back for information that can support you on your journey!

# Ontario Autism Program (OAP)



## Caregiver Mediated Early Years

Caregiver Mediated Early Years (CMEY) programs offered through the OAP support families with young children ages 12 months to 48 months. These programs help young children learn new skills and meet individualized goals.

To access CMEY services, families must be invited to participate. To receive an invitation, children must be registered with the OAP. To register your child with the OAP, [click here](#).

Through the CMEY programs, parents and caregivers learn therapeutic strategies and specific techniques from professionals based on their child's individual needs. The programs aim to build parents' and caregivers' capacity to support their child's skill development in:

- Social interaction
- Play
- Communication
- Emotional development
- Adaptive development and self-help skills

The programs are play-based, child-led, and developmentally appropriate.

## Entry to School

The Entry to School (ETS) program helps children develop school-readiness skills and provides transition supports as they enter Kindergarten or Grade 1 for the first time.

The program includes two main parts. The first part is a 6-month, group-based, skill-building program focused on helping children develop school-readiness skills in six areas:

- **Communication** – such as conversation, expressing wants and needs, understanding words and language, social communication and non-verbal communication
- **Play** – such as toy exploration and engaging in group play/games
- **Social interaction** – such as understanding of social boundaries, interactions with peers, and learning new behaviours by observing/imitating peers
- **Functional routines** – such as following classroom routines, and self-help skills in dressing and toilet training
- **Behavioural self-management** – such as emotional regulation and being able to wait their turn
- **Pre-academics, learning and attention** – such as developing new learning skills, working within a group setting, and independent work

The group-based program is delivered by multi-disciplinary staff with expertise in:

- Autism
- Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA)
- Speech Language Pathology (SLP)
- Occupational Therapy (OT)
- Early Childhood Development

After completing the group-based part of the program, children start the second part of the program which provides them with individual transition supports as they enter school. Families and educators can access consultation services from ETS program staff, as needed, during a child's first 6 months in school.

To participate in ETS, your child must be:

- Registered in the OAP
- Between 3 to 6 years old as of December 31st in the year they are starting school
- Starting Kindergarten or Grade 1 for the first time

If your child is eligible, you will receive an invitation. Families must receive an invitation to register for the program. To register your child with the OAP, [click here](#).

## [Foundational Family Services](#)

Foundational Family Services (FFS) are available to those under the age of 18 and their families, registered with the OAP. FFS include a selection of services and supports informed by evidence, delivered as group, individual, self-directed, virtual, and in-person services and supports. These services assist families in supporting their child's learning and development and are provided free of charge across the province of Ontario.

## [Urgent Response Services](#)

Children and youth with Autism can experience high-risk factors including, but not limited to, aggression, property destruction, and self-injurious behaviour. Safety is a critical issue among their families and caregivers. Our Urgent Response Service (URS) provides timely support to address a specific need, designed to prevent risk escalation to self, others, and/or property.

Children and youth and their families can receive up to 12 weeks of personalized services and support, which may include:

- Short-term consultation with a child's intervention team, caregivers and educators
- Respite services
- Direct support to the family and professionals involved to implement behaviour therapy with the child using a mediator model approach

Each child/youth and family will have a URS Coordinator working with them to develop and oversee the service plan. The coordinator will also provide service navigation to other services within or outside the OAP.

## [Core Clinical Services](#)

Our team of clinicians work with families and individuals to develop specific plans to support a person's interests, strengths and needs. Core Clinical Services (CCS) can include individual direct (1:1) support, mediator coaching, and group services.

We use the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) to support the following areas:

- Communication
- Social interaction
- Play and leisure
- Motor skills
- Daily living activities
- Executive functioning skills (planning, organization, attention, emotional regulation)
- School and job readiness skills
- Challenging behaviours

Please refer to [\*\*Applied Behaviour Analysis \(ABA\) services\*\*](#) to learn more about our clinical services overseen by a Registered Behaviour Analyst.

# Applied Behaviour Analysis

Using the principles of Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), we support Autistic individuals and their caregivers through a strengths-based, bio-psycho-social approach to develop skills for meaningful participation in their communities.

**Our Clinical team can support the following areas in either 1:1 or group settings:**

- Communication and social skills
- Daily living activities
- School and job readiness skills
- Executive functioning skills (planning, organization, attention, emotional regulation)
- Challenging behaviours

All **ABA services** are overseen by a Registered Behaviour Analyst.

## Clinical Information Meeting (CIM)

A Clinical Information Meeting (CIM) is required as the first step in accessing **individual clinical services** at Kerry's Place and is an eligible expense within Core Clinical Services funding through the OAP. A member of our skilled clinical team will hold a one-hour meeting with your family to better understand your individual goals and needs. During this time, a brief assessment is completed to capture areas of strength and areas in need of development, which is used to provide an informed recommendation from our team of Registered Behaviour Analysts regarding the clinical services available for purchase at Kerry's Place that will help you meet your goals.

## Individual Clinical Services

Our individual clinical services support development in communication, social skills, self-regulation, and independent living based on the principles of ABA. Programming is customized to a person's strengths and needs, and can be delivered to clients in their home, in the community or at one of our resource centres across Ontario.

Examples of goals may include, but are not limited to:

- Communication and social interaction (e.g. requesting, answering questions, following directions, conversation skills, friendship skills, etc.)
- Play and leisure (e.g. sharing, turn taking, parallel play skills, etc.)
- Motor skills (e.g. fine motor, gross motor, etc.)
- Activities of daily living (e.g. toileting, tooth brushing, showering, dressing, cooking, etc.)
- Executive functioning skills (e.g. planning, organization, flexibility, etc.)
- Emotional regulation (e.g. coping/calming strategies, problem solving, perspective taking, etc.)
- Vocational and job readiness skills (e.g. interview skills, resume skills, money management, etc.)
- Interfering behaviours (e.g. teaching appropriate replacement behaviours)





## Skill-Building Groups

Our Skill-Building Groups are available to children and youth with a diagnosis of Autism to further develop social communication skills, navigate social situations and learn emotional regulation strategies. We offer group services at a variety of locations and times to suit your family schedule. All group services are organized by age and skill-level of the participants and include fun and engaging activities, opportunities to connect with peers and make friendships.

We offer a comprehensive menu of Skill-Building Groups in the following areas:

- Group readiness skills
- Social skill development
- Communication strategies
- Self-regulation strategies
- Employment-related skills
- Managing finances

Group Services include:

- Fun and engaging activities
- Opportunity to connect with peers, and make friendships
- Service Report

Families interested in having their child participate in one of our Skill-Building Groups are required to attend a sample session first.

## Get regular service updates!

Subscribe to our eNewsletter and follow us on our social channels to stay connected.

[Join our email list](#)



# Purchased Services

Kerry's Place offers select services that can be accessed through eligible funding or paid for privately, including:

- **Clinical services: individual support and skill-building groups**
- **Respite and adult services**
- **Variety of training and workshops**

With purchased services, families and individuals now have greater choice and flexibility, and Kerry's Place is able to expand our continuum of care across the lifespan of Autistic kids, teens, adults, and their families.

For more information, please reach out to [intake@kerrysplace.org](mailto:intake@kerrysplace.org) or call us at **1-833-775-3779**.

# Respite and Recreational Services

Kerry's Place provides social and recreational respite opportunities for children, youth and adults. Our primary objective of the respite program is to provide a successful, well-deserved break for caregivers and families alike, while children and adults participate in interactive, meaningful supports which are individualized to each person's unique abilities and interests.

Kerry's Place has a variety of respite options available for your family, including:

- **Daytime supports**
- **Social and leisure groups**
- **Camps**
- **Evening and overnight respite services**

## Recreation and Respite Groups

There are a range of Respite and Recreation groups offered, which provide adaptive and inclusive programming through small group sizes, and promote a safe environment to connect with those similar in age. Group sessions are themed-based and aim to provide an opportunity to learn, socialize, and apply communication and interpersonal skills, self-awareness, cooperation and teamwork through activity-based lessons and interactions.





# Employment Supports

Kerry's Place offers comprehensive employment supports designed to support Autistic job-seekers in achieving meaningful work opportunities. Supports include skill building, personalized job coaching and assistance with job placements, all tailored to meet the unique needs and strengths of each person. By fostering connections with local employers and providing ongoing support, Kerry's Place aims to promote inclusion and independence in the workplace.

## Young Adults Project

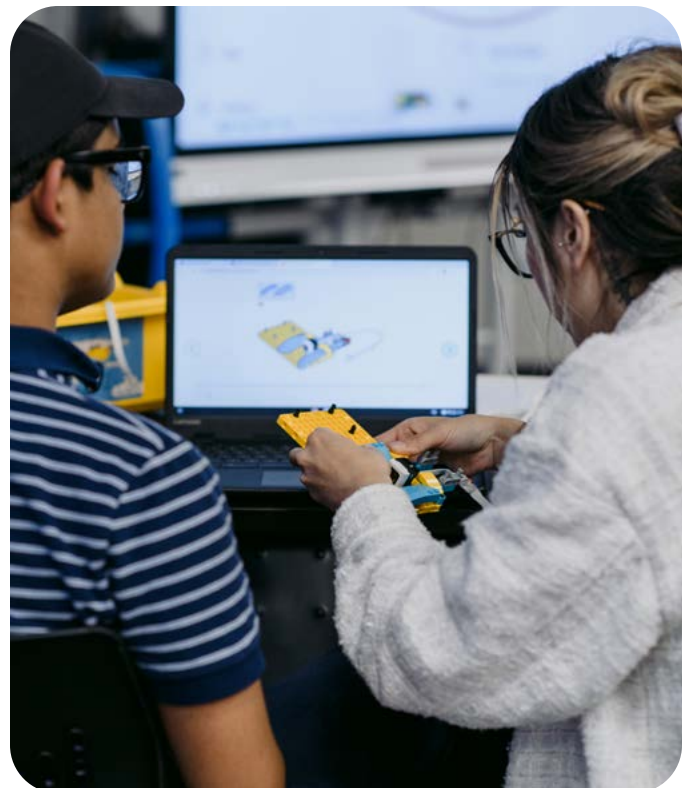
Get job-ready with the Young Adults Project (YAP). This unique initiative is for Autistic adults 18+ who want to enter the workforce and stay meaningfully employed. Participants will work individually with one of our Autism Consultants to create employment goals, connect with service providers, learn to self-advocate for accommodations and maintain their employment. The duration of support is typically 6 months, or as-needed based on individual needs. Participants will also get the chance to attend upskilling workshops.

## EmploymentWorks

EmploymentWorks offers training for youth and adults with Autism and other disabilities, ages 15+, who want to practice and develop the essential skills necessary to get and keep a job. Participants will get structured virtual learning lessons and training in real workplaces with a support ratio of three participants to one staff. Unique to this program is the chance for participants to train in online job simulations or in-person job sampling with various major employers. Participants are typically supported in this program for a duration of one year, and receive ongoing support through their training, job hunting, and employment. In addition, it provides volunteer mentors with an opportunity to share their employment journeys, and gives employers' direct experience integrating people with disabilities into their workplaces.

## Ready, Willing & Able

Kerry's Place Autism Services is proud to partner with Ready, Willing and Able to build a more inclusive labour force that leverages the skills of people on the Autism spectrum. Our local Autism Outreach Coordinator supports eligible participants in navigating their path to success to prepare for, find, and be successful on the job, and may also assist with post-secondary studies including coursework and accommodations needed to complete an internship or field placement. **The Compass** is a short online questionnaire and is the first step in connecting to the local Autism Outreach Coordinator. Through completing The Compass, you will be asked questions about your employment history, education history, and your experience with employment services and supports in your community. For more information or support in completing the questionnaire, reach out to [EmploymentSupports@kerrysplace.org](mailto:EmploymentSupports@kerrysplace.org) or visit our website [here](#).



# Consultation Services

## Individual Consultation

Consultation appointments provide short-term services to supported individuals with Autism, families, and community partners. Autism Consultants provide assistance with increasing knowledge, capacity and skills targeting individualized goals. Some goals may include: general Autism strategies, navigating community resources, respite planning, transition planning, navigating the education system, and more! Contact [Intake@kerrysplace.org](mailto:Intake@kerrysplace.org) to book your consultation appointment.

## Group Consultation

Group Consultations are 2-hour, topic-focused sessions designed to provide participants with strategies and resources. The small group virtual format allows participants access to an Autism Consultant to assist with identified goals, as well as the opportunity to gain insight from other parents and caregivers of Autistic people. Contact [Intake@kerrysplace.org](mailto:Intake@kerrysplace.org) for more information on upcoming sessions.

## Service Coordination/Coordinated Service Planning

Service Coordination helps families with children and youth who have special needs with planning and coordination of services. Families, service coordinators and other service providers work together to develop and implement a service plan for the child and their family.

This service is available to children, youth, and families across Ontario from a variety of lead service agencies. Kerry's Place provides service in Peel Region through **Kids Pathways Peel (KPP)** offering service coordination supports through a network of Peel community partner agencies.

Visit the Ministry's website [here](#) for service information across Ontario or, if you are a resident of Peel Region, call 905-890-9432 or visit [www.infopeel.ca/kpp](http://www.infopeel.ca/kpp).





# Learning and Development

Kerry's Place provides an array of workshops, seminars and courses, geared to building a comprehensive understanding and awareness of Autism throughout our communities. Our audiences are comprised of parents/caregivers, professionals, and community members who wish to learn more about how to support those with Autism. Our skilled facilitators deliver content through engaging sessions using small group, large group, and individual activities and exercises.

Our sessions cover numerous topics and themes related to Autism, including:

- Learning Styles and Teaching Strategies
- Sensory Profiles
- Stress, Anxiety and Emotional Regulation
- Receptive and Expressive Communication
- Social Skill Development, Sexuality and Relationship-Building
- Supporting Behavioural Change

Learn more by visiting our website [here](#) or contact us at [ASDTrainingRequests@kerrysplace.org](mailto:ASDTrainingRequests@kerrysplace.org).

## Autism Certificate Course

Our comprehensive Autism Certificate Course is delivered to professionals and communities across Canada. Content is continuously updated and reviewed to meet the needs of a wide range of audiences. The course is presented over six full days, covering eight distinct topics. Each session provides group and individual activities, exploring scenarios and case studies consistent with various profiles of Autism, and assignments to provide opportunities to apply what has been learned.

## Autism Professional Development Training

Kerry's Place course and workshops are available to businesses and organizations interested in increasing understanding of Autism and supports for their team. Our workshops and courses explore key themes and topics to build knowledge and understanding for you, your staff, partners and connections.

## Community Training Initiative

Kerry's Place offers eligible organizations and their staff an introductory training to build understanding and awareness of Autism in our communities. Participants learn from our facilitators through engaging and interactive sessions and group-based activities.

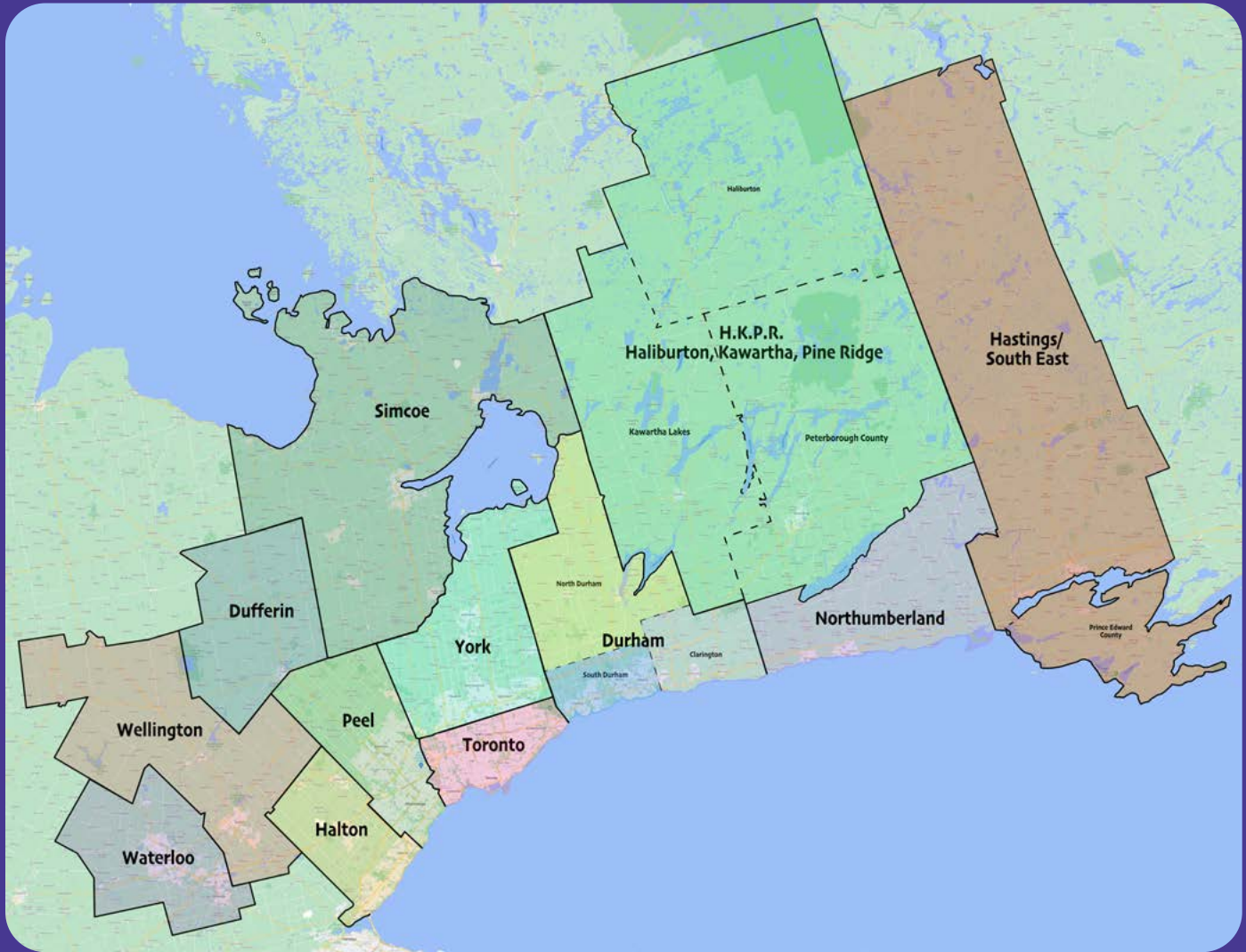
The Community Training Initiative is free of charge to eligible organizations\* and professionals. To learn if your organization is eligible for our Community Training Initiative.

To learn if your organization is eligible for our Community Training Initiative, e-mail us at: [ASDTrainingRequests@kerrysplace.org](mailto:ASDTrainingRequests@kerrysplace.org).

*\*Ministry-funded, non-profit or charitable organizations in select regions.*



# Regions we serve



Have questions? Contact us at:

Email: [intake@kerrysplace.org](mailto:intake@kerrysplace.org)

Toll Free: 1-833-77-KERRY (1-833-775-3779)

[kerrysplace.org](http://kerrysplace.org)