



# Peel

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## **THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES TURN OUT FOR LAUNCH OF SUCCESS BY 6**

**MISSISSAUGA**, Ontario – More than four thousand parents and children laughed, sang and danced to the music of Maggie and the Ferocious Beast and Ailsa, the Caledon Mother Goose, at the Success By 6 launch on February 12. Former Ontario premier, William Davis, participated in the highly successful launch which took place during the Early Years Family Fair.

“The huge turnout for the launch not only exemplifies the support for the Success By 6 initiative, but also the high interest from the community. We need to continue to build bridges and build the initiative to enhance programs for the youngest children, their families and caregivers in Peel region,” says Jim Grieve, Chair of Success By 6 Peel and Director of Education for the Peel District School Board.

Success By 6 Peel is a collaboration of more than 60 partners in business, labour, education, recreation, health, social services and government dedicated to providing opportunities for children in Peel to develop to their fullest potential from birth to age six.

The fourth annual Early Years Family Fair had something for everyone. Children and their parents and caregivers learned about local services for parents, child nutrition, exercise and safety issues. It was a chance to discover the many programs in place in Peel Region to support families with young children.

A parade of a dozen, six-foot high, multi-cultural puppets and a team of community leaders took to the stage to let everyone know about the Success By 6 initiative. The children enjoyed the reading and visuals of the book, “Stone Soup,” which tells the tale of a community giving what they can to make a soup to feed everyone. Much in the same way, Success By 6 hopes the community will contribute what it can to this worthy initiative to level the playing field so all children in Peel will thrive.

In Peel, there are more than 100,000 children between the ages of 0 and 6 which increase by 14,000 every year. But it’s not a level playing field. As many as 1 in 3 children are entering grade one without the experience they need to prepare them for successful learning. Children of all backgrounds and socioeconomic circumstances are included in this figure.

What makes Success By 6 unique is the ability to address the specific requirements of a community. No two Success By 6 initiatives across Canada are identical. It is community-driven, led by a collaborative team and is responsive to the needs of the community.

The initiative is led by the Council of Champions consisting of more than 40 community leaders, including former Ontario premiers William Davis and David Peterson. Operating in partnership with United Way of Peel Region, Success By 6 Peel will enhance current community initiatives and develop new ones for the benefit of all children in the region.

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For further information, please contact:

**Elena DiBattista**

**Success By 6, Program Director**

Tel: (905) 602-3627

E-mail: [edibattista@unitedwaypeel.org](mailto:edibattista@unitedwaypeel.org)

5170 Dixie Road, Suite 300 Mississauga ON. L4W 1E3

Tel: 905-602-3627 Fax: 905-602-3651

Elena DiBattista, [edibattista@unitedwaypeel.org](mailto:edibattista@unitedwaypeel.org)