



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 15, 2026

**Disability Charity and Ontario College  
Innovate for Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety**

Toronto, ON – May 15, 2026

Seniors and People with Disabilities have special needs that are often not met during emergencies or natural disasters. Those needs can be addressed through enhanced personal emergency preparedness as well as heightened understanding by first responders and emergency management personnel.

In recognizing this gap, **Connect4Life**, a Canadian disability charity, and Centennial College in Scarborough, have partnered to host a free public information event on May 15:

**Inclusive Emergency Preparedness for People of All Abilities: Are You Prepared?**

This event will give attendees practical tips about how to be prepared for an emergency or natural disaster, events such as ice storms, floods, large-scale fires or mass evacuations – information that speaks directly to the conditions and needs of seniors, people with disabilities, caregivers and families.

Being prepared is critical, since quite often the first responder in any emergency is a family member.

Connect4Life President and CEO, Melanie Taddeo, explains: *“Our goal is to ensure that no one is left behind when it comes to emergency preparedness. By bringing together community partners, first responders, and individuals with lived experience, we are creating a dialogue where inclusion is not an afterthought—it is the foundation,”* says Ms. Taddeo.

Event partners include Canadian Red Cross, Toronto Fire Services, Toronto Police Service, and Toronto Paramedics.

Guest speakers will include Members of Parliament, Members of Provincial Parliament, Centennial faculty, and representatives of the Government of Canada and Government of Ontario.

**Inclusive Emergency Preparedness for People of All Abilities: Are You Prepared?**

**Friday May 15, 2026**

**10:00 am to 12:30pm**

**Centennial College – Ashtonbee Campus – Scarborough**

Connect4Life is a registered Canadian charity dedicated to empowering individuals of all abilities through education, training, and inclusive opportunities that foster independence, confidence, and community connection.

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