

## City shelters to see provincial cash

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### Three facilities to benefit from funding

The provincial government is giving Barrie women and their children new hope of leaving abuse behind.

The Liberal government held up its promise to restore funding to shelters that was cut by the previous government.

Three agencies in Barrie will receive \$259,973 from an \$18.8 million investment in more than 200 Ontario women's support agencies.

The Women and Children's Shelter will receive \$248,617, New Path Youth & Family Counselling of Simcoe County gets \$6,821 and Colibri-centre des femmes francophones du comte de Simcoe will get \$4,535.

"By keeping our promise to restore funding for new shelter beds and second stage housing, women and their children will now have more options to escape violence in their homes," Barrie MPP Aileen Carroll said.

"The shelter is very pleased the provincial government has returned funding for violence against women agencies," said Lynda Muir, executive director of the Woman and Children's Shelter. "The money will enhance existing services and programs, and create more diversity and options for both women and children."

Across the province, the \$18.8 million investment will add 83 beds to existing shelters, raise the minimum per-bed funding to \$30,000 from \$25,000, provide an across-the-board five per cent increase to shelters to restore funding cuts. It will also provide \$1.5 million to second stage housing providers and support a new Francophone shelter in Timmins.