

For Immediate Release

August 24, 2023

## Alzheimer Society Peel is the first in Canada to become MUSIC CARE Certified and celebrates Gold

**Mississauga, ON** — On Tuesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Alzheimer Society Peel (ASP) became the first organization in Canada to become **MUSIC CARE Certified**. They have achieved a gold standard.

**MUSIC CARE CERTIFY™** is a groundbreaking achievement program developed by the **Room 217 Foundation** that recognizes care organizations who demonstrate excellence in music care delivery. Music becomes integrated and sustained into daily routines and practices for better care outcomes.

Using Room 217's inclusive and integrated model of music care, music becomes a person-centred solution to organizational challenges. ASP specifically addressed the design of their sound environment within their community services programming. Results showed less wandering and confusion of clients, increased engagement, improved staff wellness, and deeper relationships within the circle of care.

"One of ASP's drivers is continuous quality improvement. The **MUSIC CARE CERTIFY** program aligned with this driver in terms of service delivery. We want the best for our clients and strive to provide that. ASP acknowledges the value in music as a therapeutic intervention and equipping our dedicated staff with the additional tools offered by the CERTIFY program was an offer we could not refuse." remarked Jamie Calderon-Simon, Director of Client Services.



**MUSIC CARE CERTIFY Site team (l-r)  
Crystal Cordi, Shrima Patel, Ruth Watkiss, Taralyn  
Lawton, Amanda Morris**

What are they hoping to see next? "I am looking forward to seeing the program continue to grow throughout other service areas at ASP. Now we have such a rich foundation we can continue to build on it, bringing more quality music to our clients. We are hoping to expand the CERTIFY expertise from community services to Behavioural Supports Ontario services. We would like to get the Community Support Workers and Recreation Therapists trained in Music Care Levels 1 and 2 and create more music resources for those teams." explains Ruth Watkiss, Certified Music Therapist and Site Team Lead for **MUSIC CARE CERTIFY**.

The Room 217 Foundation is a health arts organization dedicated to improving the care culture with music. Room 217 works to enrich the care experience, especially for vulnerable older adults in care settings. Our programs and services help caregivers and providers use music in their regular practice regardless of their musical abilities or training.

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Learn more about [MUSIC CARE CERTIFY](https://www.musiccare.org/certify)