

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HISTORIC ANNOUCEMENT
LA PASSERELLE-I.D.É. OPENS L'AGAPANTHE
TRANSITION HOME OF LA PASSERELLE-I.D.É.
FOR AFRICAN FRANCOPHONE REFUGEES

TORONTO, May 2nd, 2025 – [La Passerelle-I.D.É.](#) today announced the historical opening of L'Agapanthe Transition Home of La Passerelle-I.D.É., a 50 beds transition home that provides African Francophone refugees with essential housing and support as they establish themselves in Canada.

L'Agapanthe builds on La Passerelle-I.D.É.'s longstanding commitment to the economic development and integration of racialized Francophone refugees. L'Agapanthe provides a comprehensive, culturally responsive support system, built and led by racialized Francophone refugees.

"Today marks an important step forward in our city's commitment to welcoming and supporting those in need. With the opening of L'Agapanthe, Ontario's first francophone transitional home for African refugees, we are addressing a critical need while recognizing the diverse strengths that enrich our city. This initiative by La Passerelle-I.D.É., is especially crucial given the City's recent challenges in providing adequate support for African refugees. In recent years, newly arriving refugee claimants have been the fastest growing client group in the City's shelter system, putting tremendous strain on resources and prompting urgent response measures. Culturally appropriate homes like L'Agapanthe offer much-needed relief to our shelter system. I extend my gratitude to everyone who worked tirelessly to make this possible and the federal government for providing the funding necessary to establish Refugee Homes city-wide" – **Councillor Chris Moise**

*"L'Agapanthe represents a new transition home model of support and addresses a gap in the delivery of African Francophone refugee services in Ontario," said **Ahmat Hassane**, Chair of La Passerelle-I.D.É. "We are not only providing a place to stay but creating an environment where individuals can access the tools, networks, and opportunities needed to succeed."*

L'Agapanthe is structured around four key areas of support.

1. Housing stability ensures individuals have access to secure, temporary accommodations while working toward permanent solutions.
2. Employment and economic empowerment programs connect residents with job opportunities, career training, and mentorship.
3. Education and personal development initiatives provide access to language training and skills development, helping newcomers navigate the transition successfully.
4. Cultural and social inclusion programs foster a sense of belonging through mentorship and engagement with the Francophone and Anglophone communities.

La Passerelle-I.D.É., would like to acknowledge the **City of Toronto**, with support from **Councillor Chris Moise**, Toronto-Centre, for its funding to ensure this gap in service delivery to African francophone refugees is addressed. La Passerelle-I.D.É., is also grateful to the following shelter and support partners who provided invaluable advice to ensure the success of L'Agapanthe, including: **Margaret Housing, Fred Victor, Sojourn House, Delta Family Resource Centre, and The Peoples Church.**

-30-

For media inquiries, partnership opportunities, or additional information, please contact:
Kenza Bendjenad, Responsable de communication, Marketing & Communication La Passerelle I.D.É.

kenza@passerelle-ide.com

+1 (416) 934-0588

passerelle-ide.com | conferenceresolutions.ca

808-2 Carlton St., Toronto, ON M5B 1J3

About La Passerelle-I.D.É.

Founded by **Léonie Tchatat**, [La Passerelle-I.D.É.](#) has been at the forefront of **Francophone immigrant integration** in Canada for over two decades. Through pioneering programs and strategic advocacy, the organization ensures that newcomers receive **the resources, opportunities, and support they need to build strong, fulfilling lives in Canada.**

A Collaborative Effort to Drive Change

L'Agapanthe is dedicated to working alongside **government agencies, community organizations, and private sector partners** to create **sustainable pathways to success for African Francophone refugees and immigrants**. La Passerelle-I.D.É. invites policymakers, businesses, and community leaders to **join in supporting this transformative initiative.**