

CONTACT FALL/WINTER 2020

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



As the year nears its end, many of us are looking forward to saying goodbye to 2020. However, the turning of the calendar will not mean an end to the challenging circumstances that have defined this remarkable year. In fact, we expect that 2021 will bring even greater financial challenges for our organization. We don't have a crystal ball but I want to give you a picture of what we do know and my best guess at what the road ahead looks like.

Over the past several decades, YWCA Metro Vancouver has developed a few strong income streams to safeguard our financial security and ensure we can continue to support the thousands of individuals and families who rely on our programs and services. We have a dedicated community of donors; our Fund Development team works hard to procure government grants; and we rely on income from our social enterprises, the YWCA Hotel and the YWCA Health + Fitness Centre. With this approach, and through careful management, the YWCA has been highly successful and we entered the year in a strong financial position.

The pandemic hit both hospitality and fitness swiftly and deeply. It affected our primary fundraising event, the Women of Distinction Awards, and, understandably, some donors are unable to contribute as they had in the past. In September, we projected a \$641,000 deficit in 2020. With support from federal wage subsidies, we have lowered this deficit considerably. However, the future of this support is uncertain and we

expect to be faced with many tough decisions in the year ahead.

Despite this challenging financial picture, our work is critical in today's environment. YWCA services like safe, affordable housing, legal supports, violence prevention, early learning and child care, food programs, programs that support Indigenous culture and healing, employment services and so much more have each become more vital to deliver.

We are not alone in this quandary of increasing need and decreasing resources. Of the roughly 86,000 registered charities across Canada, some estimates predict that at least 20% will not survive because of the pandemic. Canada's charities and non-profits are a crucial part of the national economy, contributing more than 8% to our GDP. We employ more than 10% of working Canadians, the vast majority of whom are women.

Organizations like the YWCA play a key role in delivering social programs. Our staff know the challenges people face in communities that are marginalized and are working on the front lines to deliver life-changing services. Charities and non-profits – our employees, volunteers and program participants – advocate for social change and contribute to healthy and resilient communities.

Our economy will not recover without the vital services that organizations like the YWCA provide every day. As all levels of government begin to chart a course for renewal, we will continue to advocate for their support in helping to stabilize and rebuild our sector.

The YWCA was in a strong financial position before the pandemic struck. Our Board and teams are pragmatic and cautiously optimistic about the direction we will need to take in the coming months. That doesn't mean it won't be challenging, but it does mean that we are determined to continue to reach for our vision of achieving women's equality.

As always, we are incredibly grateful to you – our dedicated donors, volunteers and partners – for your continued commitment to our vision, mission and work at this critical time.

Deb Bryant, CEO
YWCA Metro Vancouver

YWCA HOUSING NEWS

Sandy is a mother to a newborn and a toddler. She was leaving a violent relationship and, like many women, had a challenging time finding safe, affordable housing. Sandy contacted the YWCA and soon found long-term housing at YWCA's Fraser Gardens. "Just knowing someone's there with an open door, it helps me know that I can do it," Sandy reflected. "If I was alone, I don't know if I could do it."

Access to housing helps families thrive and advances gender equality. That's why YWCA Metro Vancouver continues to work with values-driven partners to build homes for women and their children.

Two YWCA housing projects will open soon, welcoming 46 families to their new homes. We are also working on three exciting new projects that will provide 107 more units across Metro Vancouver.

OPENING SOON

YWCA May Brown Place (formerly St. Georges)

In just a few months, 14 families will call YWCA May Brown Place home. Located in the heart of North Vancouver, we are thrilled to name this housing in honour of a leader in our community.

We have raised 99% of our \$5.861M capital and endowment campaign. We are grateful to all our donors, in particular to the Province of BC - BC Housing for their contribution.

YWCA Arbutus Street Vancouver

In partnership with Tikva Housing and The Association of Neighbourhood Houses of BC, we will soon offer 125 new affordable units to a diverse population in Vancouver. Of these, the YWCA will operate 32 homes for single mothers and their dependent children. Completion is scheduled for early 2021.

HOUSING COMMUNITIES UNDER WAY

YWCA No. 3 Road Richmond

This will be the YWCA's first housing community

in Richmond. In partnership with Keltic Canada Development, we will provide 27 new affordable homes. This community will house women and their children, as well as single women aged 55+, in studios and one-, two- and three-bedroom units. Completion is scheduled for December 2021.

We are embarking on a capital campaign to raise \$5.9M and are actively seeking donors to join us in making this project a reality. For more information, contact Bobbi Sarai at bsarai@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5780.

YWCA Canada Way Burnaby

This housing community will deliver 48 new affordable homes in Burnaby. We are thrilled to partner with Cindy Beedie, whose philanthropy focuses on providing homes and education opportunities for women, as well as with BC Housing and the City of Burnaby. The building will also include a child care centre. Completion is scheduled for winter 2023.

YWCA Grange Street Burnaby

In partnership with Qualex-Landmark Orchard Limited Partnership, this housing community will bring another 32 new units to Burnaby. The YWCA will welcome low- and moderate-income single mothers and their children once construction is completed in spring 2024.

We are embarking on a capital campaign to raise \$11.7M for this project and are actively seeking donors to join us. Should you be interested in being a lead donor to name this new housing community, or to make a donation, please contact Bobbi Sarai at bsarai@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5780.

We are grateful to all of our partners and donors.

If you own land or a building that you would like to turn into affordable housing, please contact us before November 19th. CMHC has a new rapid housing funding initiative for up to 100% of costs. This is an exceptional opportunity to house more families.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

On March 8th, International Women’s Day, we proudly hosted an event to announce this year’s Women of Distinction nominees. It was a fantastic night, and little did we know the world was on the brink of drastic change.



YWCA Metro Vancouver CEO, Deb Bryant, announces the nominees during the event in March, 2020.

Shortly after, restrictions on large gatherings were put in place. We canceled the venue for the 2020 Women of Distinction Awards and began to rethink the event. We knew one thing: we were committed to celebrating the 73 exceptional nominated women and five outstanding workplaces.

On September 23, during Gender Equality Week, we did just that.

Moving the event online, our team ensured everything ran smoothly from a socially distant headquarters. More than 800 guests tuned in to honour the inspiring nominees and their achievements. Many of our guests joined *watch parties* or socially distanced gatherings, with everyone celebrating in their own way.

Métis artist, singer and songkeeper Andrea Menard opened the evening with her moving performance of Four Directions Prayer filmed in the beautiful Queen Elizabeth Park on the ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples – Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam Nations.

Global News’ Sophie Lui hosted the unforgettable night which included messages of support and congratulations from the Honourable Janet Austin, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Premier John Horgan.



Andrea Menard’s performance during the online Women of Distinction Awards.



Attendees connecting on social media; our hashtag #YWCAWODA was on the top ten trends in Canada.

YWCA METRO VANCOUVER
WOMEN of DISTINCTION AWARDS
 presented by **Scotiabank.**



The 2020 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards recipients.

We are grateful that Scotiabank returned for their milestone 10th year as presenting sponsor. Fourteen recipients were announced, including two in the inaugural Reconciliation in Action award, which recognizes two unique women, an Indigenous leader and an ally, working independently and committed to finding a new way forward. A full list of this year's award recipients can be found here.

We also honoured Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, MD MPH FRCPC, with the prestigious Icon Award. Only the third recipient of this award, Dr. Henry fit the bill perfectly as a woman who has made a significant and sustained difference over the span of her lifetime in the community on a local, provincial and/or national level.



Dr. Bonnie Henry and Lesly Tayles, from Scotiabank, during an exclusive interview for the Women of Distinction Awards.

To celebrate Dr. Henry's impact, she sat down

in conversation with Lesly Tayles, Senior Vice President, BC & Yukon Region at Scotiabank. This exclusive interview covered Dr. Henry's prestigious career achievements and touched on her experiences leading BC through this difficult time. She talked about how she navigated her early career in a male dominated field and shared how she coined her famous phrase, "Be kind, be calm, be safe."

In addition to celebrating women and allies in the community, the Women of Distinction Awards presented by Scotiabank is also our signature fundraising event, raising critical funds for YWCA programs and services.

Thank you to our sponsors and everyone who donated or participated in this year's raffle and silent action. Together, we raised more than \$217,000. All donations go toward supporting women like Andrea and Marie, who shared their stories at the event.

Nominations for the 38th Annual Women of Distinction Awards presented by Scotiabank are now open.

If you know a woman or business whose outstanding achievements contribute to the well-being and future of Metro Vancouver, please contact Jena Fair at jfair@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5768.

AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE

It's been nearly a year since the first reported case of COVID-19 in BC and the full impacts of the pandemic will not be seen or understood for a long time.

What we do know is that women and people who are marginalized are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. We also know that a strong economic recovery that benefits everyone places women at the centre of decision-making, rather than at the margins.

PROGRESS AT RISK

Women are concentrated in essential front-line occupations such as care work, hospitality, education and cleaning, putting them most at risk; women have also experienced disproportionate job loss in sectors such as tourism and hospitality. When the pandemic struck, many women suddenly became de facto child care providers and educators while attempting to work from home, and many have had to make the difficult decision to leave jobs to care for their children.

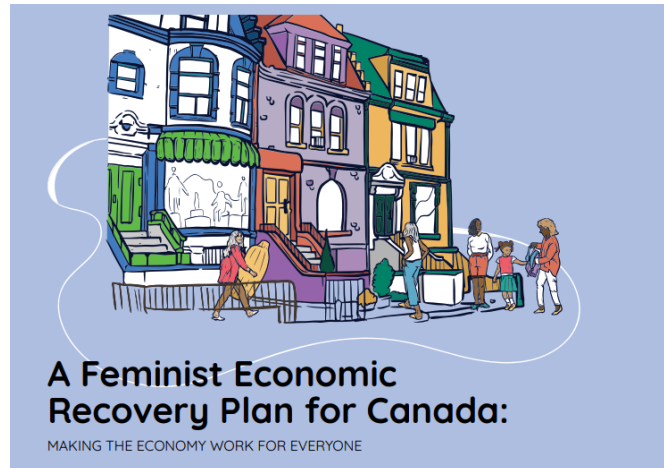
As YWCA Director of Communications and Advocacy Amy Juschka said in an op-ed in *The Province* this summer, "this 'she-cession' is a downturn like no other in history... and decades of hard-won progress on gender equality is at risk."

FEMINIST ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN

Recently, our colleagues at YWCA Canada partnered with the University of Toronto's Institute for Gender and the Economy and released *A Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for Canada: Making the Economy Work for Everyone*. This eight-point plan addressed all levels of government with recommendations that would advance gender equity in the post-pandemic recovery.

The eight pillars of the Plan include:

1. Intersectionality: Understanding Power
2. Addressing Root Causes of Systemic Racism
3. Care Work is Essential Work
4. Investing in Good Jobs
5. Fighting the Shadow Pandemic
6. Bolstering Small Businesses
7. Strengthening Infrastructure for Recovery
8. Diverse Voices in Decisions



The Plan recognizes that we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to suddenly and decisively redirect society's trajectory. It offers a fresh approach that thinks about the economy and gender equity together.

Here in BC, we know that more affordable housing, universal child care, addressing systemic racism and reducing gender-based violence are especially critical to creating a more just society.

COMMITMENT, COURAGE AND VISION

"The pandemic has revealed vulnerabilities in our society that were already undermining the rights, safety and security of women," Amy said.

"Our recovery will not come easy, but it does present an opportunity to dismantle the status quo and make life better for those most impacted by the pandemic. To recover, people need to safely access health care, they need to be housed, they need opportunities for good jobs and fair pay, they need child care, and they need to live free from the threat of violence and discrimination.

"It will require courage, commitment and a vision of an economy that lifts everyone up."

Read The Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for Canada: Making the Economy Work for Everyone here. If you would like to make a donation to support our advocacy work, contact Brenda Ulmer at bulmer@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5764.

LOVE YOU PROGRAM BY SHOPPERS DRUG MART

The COVID-19 pandemic has been linked to an increase in intimate partner violence in Canada. One in 10 women say they are “very or extremely” concerned about the possibility of violence in their home due to the stress of confinement, according to a Statistics Canada survey.

With community centres, libraries and neighborhood houses closed or operating under restrictions, social gatherings discouraged and many workplaces shut down, people may not be able to avoid their abusers. The pandemic has also resulted in loss of income, uncertainty about the future and an increase in stress and anxiety, which has strained many intimate relationships, providing the ideal environment for abusers to isolate their victims.

Since 2011, the LOVE YOU program by Shoppers Drug Mart has raised and donated more than \$74 million to charitable organizations benefiting women’s health in Canada. This year YWCA Metro Vancouver is incredibly grateful that all 29 Shoppers Drug Mart locations across Vancouver will be donating 100% of the campaign funds to support our two second-stage transition houses, YWCA Munroe House and YWCA Eyrie.

YWCA Metro Vancouver established the first second-stage transition house in Canada in 1979, where women and their children can stay for up to two years, while receiving support on their

journey to living free from violence. Women and their children are referred to the YWCA by first-stage transition houses where they can typically stay for 30 days.

YWCA second-stage transition housing offers fully furnished suites as families often arrive with only their personal belongings. Staff are onsite to provide support, information and referrals, safety planning, advocacy with government and community agencies, accompaniment to lawyers’ appointments and court dates, assistance to find permanent, safe and affordable housing and social activities to help reduce isolation.

Mothers can also enroll their children in the YWCA PEACE program, which provides art and play therapy to children and youth who have witnessed and/or experienced abuse. The Legal Education program is available to support women who are going through family court processes to keep themselves and their children safe.

We are grateful to Shoppers Drug Mart store owners and associates for selecting the YWCA as the recipient for this impactful campaign.

For more information or to support the YWCA’s services for women leaving violence, please contact Vanessa Wellington-Clark at vwellington@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5826, or visit [this page](http://this.page).



Mother and daughter at YWCA Housing community.

YWCA YOUTH PROGRAMS



YWCA Youth Education program participants.

For many students, the transition from elementary school to high school can be challenging and complicated. Concerns about changes in workload and school environment, different friends, new social pressures and increased responsibilities can feel overwhelming.

YWCA Metro Vancouver recognized the need to support students in this transition, and that this is a critical time for youth to learn about healthy relationships in order to prevent violence against girls and women. In consultation with the Vancouver School Board and the Surrey School District, and with funding from both the federal and provincial governments, we developed several innovative after-school programs for Grade 7 students. For more than 15 years the programs have supported hundreds of youth.

Amanda Pullishy, supervisor for YWCA Youth Education programs, sees firsthand the positive impacts on students, even after the program is complete. “Over the last several years, our programs have increasingly seen former Grade 7 participants return to us as volunteers, joining diverse intergenerational teams to offer support and wisdom to the next generation,” she said.

“One of my greatest joys has been working with volunteers, whose dedication makes an immeasurable impact on the confidence and well-being of young people in the transition to high school.”

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Amir and Yasmin Virani have been long-time supporters of YWCA Youth Education programs. We asked them why they are drawn to help the community this way.

“We arrived in Canada in 1972 as immigrants from war torn Uganda. The Amir and Yasmin Virani Foundation was established in 2010; it was our way of giving back to a country that welcomed us with open arms. Our goal is to provide youth with opportunities to thrive and develop to their fullest potential. We’re so happy to partner with the YWCA. The youth education programs focus on helping young people develop “toolkits” to navigate their environments and live their best lives.”

PROGRAMS DURING THE PANDEMIC

In response to COVID-19, all four after-school programs – Welcome to My Life, That’s Just Me, Boys 4 Real and Being Me – have moved online. Historically, they were delivered by intergenerational teams of volunteers in same-gender groups. For the first time, the programs are being delivered by YWCA staff to mixed-gender groups over Zoom, and to students further afield than the Vancouver and Surrey School districts.

“As our programs adapt to the challenges of COVID-19, we remain committed to providing high-quality programs that attend to the social and emotional needs of young people,” Amanda Pullishy assures. Even though the format has changed for now, she is still confident of the programs’ reach. “It is a profound honour to witness the impact of mentorship firsthand.”

We are grateful to the Amir and Yasmin Virani Family Foundation and all of the donors who make these programs possible.

If you are interested in supporting YWCA Youth Education programs, please contact Danielle Rana at drana@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5766.

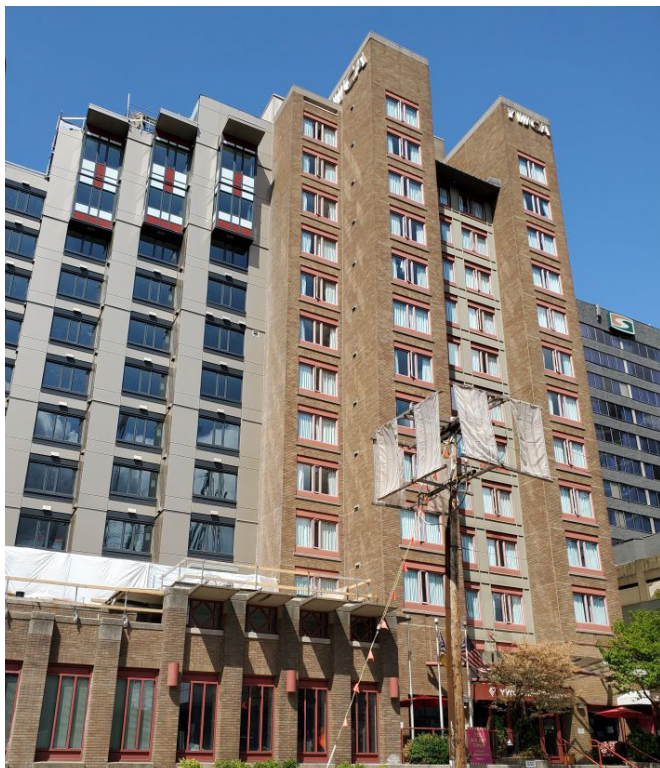
YWCA RESIDENCES/HOTEL

The YWCA Residences/Hotel at 733 Beatty Street is more than just your average hotel. It is one of the YWCA's social enterprises, bringing in a steady source of income that directly supports our critical work in helping single mothers and families across Metro Vancouver.

We also serve community members in vulnerable circumstances. For example, we address specific temporary housing needs for those traveling for medical treatments, those being renovicted, seniors and students on fixed or precarious incomes, emergency shelter for women leaving violence and others in need.

This stable source of revenue for the YWCA has been disrupted since sweeping travel bans were implemented at the start of the pandemic. With the YWCA Residences/Hotel struggling to break even, our community support services are also in jeopardy.

"Usually our rooms are packed," said Arthur Mills, VP of Hotel and Housing Development. "This summer, we hovered around only 15% of our regular occupancy. This, of course, has major implications for the rest of the organization."



The new tower at the YWCA Residences/Hotel.



Hotel guest kitchen in the new tower.

Now the team is focused on innovating and adapting services and strategies. When BC moved to Phase 3 and allowed for non-essential travel within the province, we began a series of promotions to attract potential guests and serve new community needs. In addition to offering daily, weekly and monthly stays, we also started offering self-quarantine options.

But with 65 additional new guestrooms opening soon, we hope to provide short-term accommodation for travellers, as well as to serve those in need of long-term accommodation. We thank BC Housing for their funding to be able to provide more units at the YWCA Residences/Hotel and offer diverse housing solutions.

"We are thrilled to introduce our fabulous new rooms in the brand-new tower," said Barbara Lane, the Hotel's Associate Director. "We believe that these rooms will attract a variety of people. Everyone has been watching the progress and our switchboard lit up when the scaffolding was taken down."

Hotel staff has seen an uptick in interest, but we will still need help from our friends and supporters to continue serving the local community.

Please consider recommending the YWCA Hotel to your friends and family who are visiting, or locals who need a place to stay. For more information on the YWCA Residences/Hotel, contact hotel@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5830.

NEXT 125 AMBASSADORS SHARE GENEROSITY AND WISDOM



The Next 125 ambassadors - left to right: Diane Forsythe-Abbott, Lauren Gehlen, Ann Mortifee, Dr. Kim van der Woerd, Lis Welch and Cynn timer Woodward.

Social change often begins around a table. This was how YWCA Metro Vancouver began in 1897, when a small group of women recognized that single women needed support. It is also, in part, how we have raised \$9.5M since 2017 through The Next 125, our fundraising and mobilization campaign marking the organization's 125th anniversary in 2022.

The Next 125 is bolstered by the passion and generosity of six ambassadors. Working with YWCA CEO Deb Bryant, ambassadors Diane Forsythe-Abbott, Lauren Gehlen, Ann Mortifee, Dr. Kim van der Woerd, Lis Welch and Cynn timer Woodward contribute time, generosity and wisdom to the campaign and toward our vision for the future. From different generations, and each with a different YWCA journey, their dedication to gender equality and to a more equitable future unites them.

We asked each why they support the YWCA, and this is what they said.

Lis commented that "the YWCA has a finger on the pulse of society and a visionary view. Whatever issues face future generations, the YWCA will have adapted and remain relevant and important. By supporting the organization, one is supporting societal change."

Diane came upon Crabtree Corner one rainy night when she needed help with car trouble, and "just had to do something" to help return the kindness she found there. For 25 years, Diane put on an annual holiday luncheon, with Cynn timer helping lead the organizing committee. The event contributed

nearly two million dollars to women and children.

Lauren values "how intentional and well-researched YWCA programming is," and how our mission "permeates all levels of the organization."

Kim, having served on the YWCA Board for six years, connects to our work "around reconciliation and amplifying the ongoing need to speak up and speak out on issues that continue to target Indigenous women and families."

Ann said that "for 123 years, the YWCA has offered hope, security and love to thousands," and that she is "excited to be able to help in some small way to make the next 125 years even stronger."

As we near our 124th year, we see the pandemic threaten the progress made on gender equality, and how crises like this amplify the need for organizations like the YWCA.

We are grateful to our ambassadors and all of our Next 125 donors at this pivotal time, ensuring our work directly reaches members of the community. As Lauren says, "I trust and believe in the YWCA, and know many others feel the same."

We invite you to be a part of the YWCA's future. As an Urgent Response Partner, a gift of \$25,000 or more provides discretionary support to help the organization remain strong. You can also pledge your support over the coming five years. To join us, please contact Brenda Ulmer at bulmer@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5764 or Natasha Krotez at nkrotez@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5823.

YWCA HEALTH + FITNESS OFFERS SAFE OPTIONS FOR EVERYONE

We all know the importance of exercise for our mental and physical health. Exercise can also be fun and social, and can be done without compromising the physical distancing required during the pandemic. With great care and planning, the YWCA Health + Fitness Centre has implemented various measures to support your fitness routine.

SAFETY FIRST

Our booking system allows you to reserve your workout time in the facility – this means space and time is held for you, which also allows us to better manage capacity. You can book a class with a limit of 15 participants, a gym session or a pool lane just for yourself! It does feel quite luxurious to have ample space between you and your neighbour.

We also have strict protocols in place to keep members, staff and visitors safe. We ask that members and guests follow the guidelines including hand washing, keeping a safe distance and disinfecting equipment before and after use. For a list of our protocols and how to prepare for your first visit, please visit our website.

YWCA FITNESS + RACQUET CLUB

With the recent opening of the new YWCA Fitness + Racquet Club in Bentall 4, we are excited to offer expanded amenities, adding squash/racquetball courts and even more workout space. Just a five-minute walk apart, members have access to both locations. The new centre has 18,000 square feet



YWCA Fitness & Racquet Club.

of workout space, weight, cardio and meditation areas, a fitness studio and five squash/racquetball courts.

If you're new to squash, we are happy to help you get started. Coach Andrew Lynn has 30 years of experience teaching players of all ages and levels. With distancing protocols in place, he is ready to coach solo, doubles and small group lessons. We welcome you to come in for a new court member orientation.

ONLINE OPTIONS FOR EVERYONE

When you can't make it in to the facility or join a scheduled class time, access our Fit on Demand channel for more than 60 online workouts that include DanceFit, Zumba, Barre, Pilates Mat, Yoga, HITT, Boot Camp, Cycle and more. We want to ensure members can get fit and stay fit, wherever they may be.

As the pandemic continues, don't let it stop you from working out and enjoying your fitness routine. Making time for mental and physical health is always a great priority, and we're here to support you along the way.

If you have questions or would like to join the YWCA Health + Fitness Centre and Fitness + Racquet Club, please contact member services at memberservices@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5777.



LINKING UP WITH TECHLINK

TechLink is one of YWCA Metro Vancouver's newest employment programs and work experience opportunities.

Its impact is twofold. It is an employment program for IT and tech professionals in Metro Vancouver who are looking to start their careers here. It is also a free IT and tech helpdesk resource for members of the community who need extra support now that so much is done online.

TechLink is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia. It was created when the YWCA identified that there was a significant number of Metro Vancouver job seekers who had robust tech qualifications, but weren't able to find work because they were internationally trained and lacked local experience.

Since its launch in August 2020, YWCA TechLink has been providing 10 participants with coaching, industry-recognized certification, access to networking events and up to 20 weeks of work experience as an IT Helpdesk Specialist to support their career growth here in BC.

As part of the work experience portion of the program, YWCA TechLink participants take phone calls and virtual appointments. They support community members across Metro Vancouver who have general IT and tech inquiries, including single mothers, seniors, youth, those at risk of homelessness, families living on low incomes and people with literacy barriers. Requests include setting up email addresses, assistance using apps like Zoom and FaceTime, accessing government services online and more.

YWCA TechLink has been reaching out to local seniors' organizations, libraries, neighbourhood houses, youth centres and non-profits, to spread the word about this free IT and tech support service.

Those looking to arrange a call to get support with their IT questions can visit ywcavan.org/techlink-support or call 1-833-386-4129.

YWCA TechLink's second cohort is scheduled to begin in early 2021. Please contact techlink@ywcavan.org for more information.

THANK YOU, DEB

On behalf of the YWCA Metro Vancouver Board of Directors, I would like to extend our gratitude to CEO Deb Bryant for her leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. Deb's calm approach and direct communication allowed staff to quickly adapt to the new reality of the pandemic. Without skipping a beat, the YWCA continued to support the individuals and families who access services from our organization.

Through thoughtful policy, Deb has helped ensure the safety of YWCA program participants, volunteers and staff. And she has been steadfast in safeguarding hard

won advancements in gender equality while collaborating with stakeholders to build a stronger future for us all.

Deb's leadership continues to provide support for our community as a whole. She is skillfully steering the organization through this global crisis, ensuring the YWCA will serve and advocate for women and families for a long time to come.

Thank you, Deb.



Lisa Coltart, Board Chair

PICKLEBALL NEWLYWEDS PICK YWCA AS BENEFICIARY OF THEIR LEGACIES



Lenore and Joan

Lenore Rosen said her legacy gift felt like “a gift to herself” when YWCA Fund Development Manager, JoAnne Fahr, thanked her for her future donation. Within a year, Lenore’s wife, Joan Robillard, was planning to make the very same gesture: a bequest to YWCA Metro Vancouver.

Joan was a family physician for 30 years and helped start a unique program called The South Community Birth Program. The first of its kind in Canada, the program brought midwives, physicians and nurses side by side to provide group prenatal and intrapartum care with doula support at BC Women’s Hospital, followed by post-partum care for both the nursing mother and her newborn. Joan also often worked with refugees at BC Women’s Hospital and was well aware of YWCA

Crabtree Corner. She also attended the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards several times.

Lenore claims to have come out of the womb a feminist. She says the YWCA has always taken care of women from an empowerment and safety perspective, thus making the YWCA a natural choice for where to donate funds.

Lenore spent her career as a social worker in the field of child welfare. She was Executive Director of a treatment centre for families overcoming abuse and neglect; worked in residential treatment with children and teens; was a therapist with teens with mental health concerns; and served as a child protection worker. In 1999, Lenore even found time to volunteer in a YWCA mentorship role. Now both women are retired, newly married and passionate pickleball players.

Both feel the YWCA is a spectacular organization, fulfilling their instinct to help make the world a better place, especially for women and their children. They are thrilled to give monthly, as well as at the end of their lives.

Lenore and Joan want to encourage more YWCA Legacy Gifts by reiterating how good it felt to put in writing what they knew would have far-reaching and long-lasting impacts beyond their lifetimes. Their decisions – though made independently of each other – show how well-matched they are as newlyweds. And as for pickleball, Joan encourages everyone who hasn’t yet tried it to discover just how fun it is.

For further information on Legacy Giving please contact Arden Sutherland at asutherland@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5859 or JoAnne Fahr at jfahr@ywcavan.org | 604 895 5829.

SUPPORT SINGLE MOMS & THEIR FAMILIES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Every holiday season we give and receive more than we need. This year, keep it simple - give gifts that make a difference to local single moms and their children. Choose a gift from the list below or donate directly.

\$20 buys an emergency grocery food voucher for a single mother and her family.

\$50 supports families living at YWCA second-stage transition and long-term housing communities.

\$75 helps Indigenous babies and toddlers build family bonds through storytelling, crafts and other Indigenous traditions.

\$100 provides a single mother who has experienced intimate partner violence with legal representation to resolve her family law, immigration and child protection matters.

\$135 provides healthy breakfasts, lunches and ongoing access to food for a single mother at YWCA Crabtree Corner in the Downtown Eastside.

[SHOP FOR A GIFT](#)

[DONATE DIRECTLY](#)



YWCA VISION

To achieve women's equality.

YWCA MISSION

To touch lives and build better futures for women and their families through advocacy and integrated services that foster economic independence, wellness and equal opportunities.



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