



30th Women of Distinction Awards

Thursday, May 31st, 2012

Northland's Edmonton EXPO Centre

Nomination Deadline is Friday, March 30, 2012

For further information contact Lisa Evangelos

lisa.evangelos@ywcaofedmonton.org

Nominate the woman making a difference in your life. It could change hers.

Advocacy

She strives for positive social, economic, political or environmental change and development.

Arts, Culture & Heritage

She enriches artistic life or cultural heritage in Edmonton.

Community Service

She volunteers to improve life in Edmonton.

Education

She uses innovation and passion to reach her child or adult students.

Entrepreneurs & Business

She has proven successful in her business endeavours, and uses her wisdom to promote the success of others.

Trailblazer

She is paving the way for women in a non-traditional career path. This includes **any** career where typically 70% or more of the work force is male.

Turning Point

She has persevered over adverse circumstances and embraced it as a turning point in her life, driving development in herself, her family or her community.

The Young Woman of Distinction (18 & Under)

She is a promising young woman who has demonstrated influence and leadership, while contributing to the community.



NOMINATION FORM 2012

Nominee: (please print)

Name: _____
Honorific: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____
Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____
Cell: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

Nominator: (please print)

Name: _____
Relationship to Nominee: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Province: _____
Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____
Cell: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

Category: (please print)

- Advocacy
- Arts, Culture & Heritage
- Community Service
- Education
- Entrepreneurs & Business
- Turning Point
- Trailblazer
- The Young Woman of Distinction
(Youth: 18 & Under)

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:

I consent to my nomination for a YWCA Women of Distinction Award. I give consent for my name, photograph and biography to be published in the media, in connection with these Awards. I commit to attending The Nominee's Reception in April and the Awards Ceremony on May 31st, 2012 at Northlands' Edmonton EXPO Centre.

I hereby declare the information contained in this nomination form to be true to the best of my knowledge.

Nominee's Signature

Nominator's Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature (if nominee is under 18)

How did you hear about our event?

Nomination Deadline

Nominations must be received **no later** than 5:00pm on March 30, 2012 at the YWCA Edmonton Offices:
100, Main Floor 10350—124 Street Edmonton, AB T5N 3V9

Final Check List

Have you included originals of:

- The nomination form signed by both nominee and nominator
- 2 to 5 Letters of Support with contact information (minimum 2, maximum 5)
- A short biography of the nominee (100—120 words)

FAQ...

Who can nominate a Woman of Distinction?

ANYONE, male or female, who knows a woman making a difference in any of the categories can nominate, except:

- ◆ Current YWCA Women of Distinction Awards committee members
- ◆ Current YWCA Women of Distinction Award Judges Panelists
- ◆ Current YWCA Board of Directors & staff

Who can be nominated?

Any Edmonton and area woman who is making a difference in our community in any of the categories

- ◆ Past nominees **may** be re-nominated in the same category as long as they **did not win** in that category previously
- ◆ Past winners **may not** be re-nominated in the same category, but **may** be re-nominated in a **different** category

How are the winners chosen?

A Judges panel is assembled by the YWCA and is comprised of volunteers from the community. The judges are chosen based on their merit as a strong representative in at least one of the award categories.

The panel will read the nomination packages and choose a winner in each category based **exclusively on the letters and other information** submitted in these packages.

Each package will be evaluated on:

- ◆ The creation of equality, opportunity and choice -as per the YWCA Edmonton's Mission
- ◆ Originality, innovation and excellence
- ◆ Personal integrity, leadership ability, dedication and/or perseverance
- ◆ Public support and/or peer recognition
- ◆ Impact on the Edmonton community and/or the nominee's field of endeavor

Things to know:

- ◆ In some cases, the YWCA may move/reclassify a nominee to a more appropriate/better reflective category, with notice given to both the Nominee and Nominator.
- ◆ Nominees **consent by their signature** on this form to the publication of their names, photographs and biographies in various media.
- ◆ Media may request photos, biographies or interviews with nominees or award winners. The YWCA **will not** provide Nominees' personal contact information directly to the media or government officials, but will contact the nominee or award winner to forward any media requests.
- ◆ All nominations will be treated confidentially. Nominators may be contacted to confirm the appropriate category or to clarify information provided in the nomination form.
- ◆ The names of the YWCA Women of Distinction winners will be kept strictly confidential until announced at the Awards Ceremonies, Thursday, May 31st, 2012 at the Northland's Edmonton EXPO Centre.



WRITING A LETTER OF SUPPORT...

FORMAT

- ◆ Letters should be **no more** than one typed page.
- ◆ Each letter must include the writer's signature and contact information — any letters without this information will be excluded from the package.

TIPS

- ◆ Remember that your letter, along with any others for your nominee will be the **only elements** the judges have to base their decisions on.
- ◆ Speak from your personal experience and from the heart.

LAYOUT

**Sample letter attached.*

Dear Judges' Panellists,

**RE: 2012 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards Nomination
(Name of Nominee) – (Awards Category)**

Please accept this letter in support of _____ as a YWCA Women of Distinction Awards nominee, in the category of _____.

Three Key Elements to include:

1. Briefly describe your relationship with the nominee.
2. Describe your nominee's accomplishments, relevant to the category in which she is nominated.
3. Consider these questions:
 - I. What impact has she had in our community?
 - II. What makes her a good role model or mentor?
 - III. Has she overcome obstacles or barriers in order to achieve success?

Closing summary.

Sincerely,

(Name)

(Contact Information)

SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT...

**RE: 2012 YWCA Women of Distinction Awards Nomination
Jane Doe – Community Service**

Dear Judges' Panelists,

I am pleased to be writing this letter of support for the nomination of **Jane Doe** for the Women of Distinction Awards in the Community Service category. In the ten years I have worked with her at The Edmonton Women's Association she has been committed to her work with women and families. As our Director of Housing her dedication to our work is demonstrated every day and she has been a key factor in our success. Jane has impacted the lives of over 50 grateful families living in poverty; and it is certain that she has helped several adults and children avoid homelessness and separation from their loved ones.

When Jane came to the Edmonton Women's Association, the agency was in a serious budget crisis. Her education and experience would normally demand a wage far beyond the capacity of a small charity. But her commitment to her community was not deterred, as she volunteered countless hours to get our organization back on track with our finances and hired an efficient administrative team.

Jane implemented policies and procedures to ensure that we were serving our clients effectively. In the process we built a solid reputation as a place of trust and safety in the community, and Jane became a beacon of hope for people and families in their darkest hours. She inspired the whole staff to honour the efforts of each individual to improve, and demand positive change in their community. Jane believes that no job is too big or too small; she'll be scrubbing the kitchen cupboards ten minutes before she leaves for court to testify on behalf of a client.

I am proud to say that working with Jane has made me a better social worker; she has given me the priceless gift of her experience and has mentored me far beyond the skill level I could have achieved through formal education. She truly is a Woman of Distinction.

Sincerely,



Roberta Smith BSW, RSW
roberta.smith@nominator.com
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