

Message from the President

Thank you for your interest in contributing to the success of women, girls, and families in our community as a YWCA Edmonton board member. For over a century, YWCA Edmonton has been a community leader. The organization continually evolves and reinvents itself to serve the current needs of our community. Today, through advocacy, counseling services, disability services, youth programming, and outdoor leadership learning and play, YWCA Edmonton continues to lay the foundation for healthy, happy futures and women's economic participation and prosperity. YWCA Edmonton inspires leaders to advocate for equity in our community through education, empowerment, and a client-centered approach to service. This courageous and forward-thinking agency is governed by a Board of Directors focused on providing governance oversight and setting a strategic direction that supports the YWCA's mission.

If you join the YWCA Edmonton Board, you will be working alongside a tremendous group of women leaders who are passionate about community empowerment. I have found the years I have served on this Board to be incredibly rewarding, both professionally and personally. The work and my fellow board members have expanded my knowledge and skills, igniting in me an ever stronger passion to advocate for and build a community with equity, opportunity, and choice for all. There is an energy and enthusiasm amongst the staff and Board that is infectious and inspiring. There are no sideline participants on this Board. It is without doubt an absolute pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors.

Over the next few years the organization is focused on delivering on our strategic plan and ensuring that we grow our sphere of influence by advocating for equity for all, through a women's perspective. If you are passionate about the areas that the YWCA Edmonton is involved in and want to be dedicated to a driven and fast-changing agency in the social profit sector, take advantage of this opportunity.

I look forward to getting to know you better during the recruiting process. If you join us, get ready to use your voice and roll up your sleeves. YWCA Edmonton has supported Edmontonians through the Spanish Flu, both World Wars, and every social movement since 1907. Coming through the COVID-19 pandemic, we are ready to serve our community by helping rebuild our society and economy using a women's lens. There is a lot of work to be done!

Kim Pejs

Board President

Message from the CEO

Thank you for considering service on the Board of Directors of YWCA Edmonton. A cornerstone organization in Edmonton, we are a powerful voice for equity and have been leading social change and progress for women and families in our community since 1907. Through the Spanish Influenza, World Wars, the Great Depression and now the COVID-19 pandemic, YWCA Edmonton has always been there with a helping hand to ensure we keep building a stronger, healthier and equitable community for everyone.

As a Board Member, you would join a group of dynamic, passionate and dedicated women who are committed to our important mission and work. You would also become part of a unique all-female board that dates back more than a century in our city, and is part of a global YWCA movement working towards empowerment, leadership, inclusion and equity. The YWCA Edmonton Board works closely with our Leadership Team to ensure the long-term health of our legacy organization, which operates numerous departments, including counselling services, disability services, sexual health education and Camp Yowochas, a year-round outdoor education facility that first opened in 1916. Many hands over many years have changed many lives for the better, and you would be part of that historic, on-going effort to build a community with equity, opportunity and choice for all.

Katherine O'Neill

Chief Executive Officer

YWCA Edmonton Background

YWCA Edmonton has served the evolving needs of its community for over a century. It is an established and respected social service organization whose mission is to advocate for equity through a woman's perspective, educating and empowering those we serve.

YWCA Edmonton began in 1907 as Cushing House to meet the need for inexpensive, safe housing for young women drawn to the city's early 20th Century boom. From engagement with this vulnerable population, we went on to co-found some of Edmonton's most vital social service agencies: the first daycare, Foster Parents' Association, Big Sisters, WIN House, the Rape Crisis Centre, Women's Building Future Society and the ever-evolving range of YWCA Edmonton's own programs. Our vision is to co-create a community with equity, opportunity, and choice for all.

Currently we deliver education and services to thousands annually through leadership programs, counselling, outdoor education, and support services for persons with disabilities. Some of our programs and services include:

Subsidized Counselling: comprehensive professional counselling services, regardless of ability to pay.

Disability Support Services: respite and support services to adults and children with disabilities.

Camp Yowochas: summer camp and year-round outdoor education centre for children, youth, groups & organizations delivering environmental awareness, physical activity, leadership, team participation and skills programming.

Healing Gatherings: weekend retreats hosted at Camp Yowochas for women & families recovering from violence.

GirlSpace & YouthSpace: programs that build confidence, self-esteem, respect and social awareness in youth.

YWCA Edmonton is a part of the World YWCA global movement which unites 25 million women and girls worldwide and spans 125 countries. The YWCA has 32 member associations in Canada whose work spans 300 communities.

For more information, please visit www.ywcaofedmonton.org

Vision

A community with equity, opportunity, and choice for all.

Mission Statement

Advocate for equity through a woman's perspective, educating and empowering those we serve.

Strategic Pillars

1. Increase financial stability
2. Educate and engage stakeholders
3. Elevate visibility and awareness in the community

YWCA Board of Directors

The YWCA Edmonton Board of Directors is a volunteer-based governance Board and thereby determines the long-term direction of the organization by developing the strategic plan and governance policies. The Board hires a CEO to implement the Board's policies and to manage the day-to-day business of the organization. The CEO is accountable to the Board. Front-line staff and volunteers are accountable to the CEO. These staff members and volunteers implement programs and services.

Director Requirements

Director requirements include:

1. Commitment to the work of the organization – Being informed on the programs and services and other organizational matters as well as participating in discussion and decisions at Board meetings
2. Willingness to serve on a minimum of one committee and attend committee meetings
3. Attendance at Board meetings
4. Attendance at Annual General Meeting (“AGM”)
5. Attendance at Board Retreat & Orientation
6. Attendance at a minimum of 3 YWCA events (whether in-person or virtual)
7. Have an active membership to the YWCA Edmonton
8. Include the YWCA Edmonton as a charity of choice in personal philanthropy
9. Read and understand the Board Policy Manual and Bylaws

Note: All meetings are currently being held virtually due to COVID-19.

Term

Directors are elected by the Members at the AGM. Following a recruitment process with a focus on equity and diversity, the Nominating/HR Committee presents the membership with a slate of nominees for election.

Directors are elected for a three year term and are eligible for election for an additional three year term.

Board Size

The minimum Board size is 10 Directors and the maximum is 15 Directors.

Qualifications and Skills

The YWCA Edmonton Board is open to women from all walks of life. A variety of backgrounds and skill sets are sought for representation on the Board in order to attain diverse viewpoints which are representative of our community.

To develop emerging community leaders, YWCA Edmonton is committed to the YWCA Canada mandate of having a minimum of 25% of Board members who are under the age of 30 at the time of joining.

Time Commitment

To meet Director commitments, be prepared to dedicate at least **8-10 hours** per month. Directors are required to attend monthly Board meetings, the AGM and the Board Retreat. Dates are set as far in advance as possible. Regular Board meetings are approximately two hours in duration, with roughly one hour of preparation in advance of the meeting to review Board materials. The AGM is in place of the April Board meeting. New Board member orientation will take place in May and the Board Retreat is usually a full day.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of each month (no meetings in July, August and December) at the YWCA office (or via Zoom when in-person gatherings are restricted).

Executive Meetings

Executive meetings are held as needed. Executive meetings include the CEO, President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Benefits of Being a Director

Be a part of a committed and passionate group of women who guide the vision of the organization! Gain valuable Board experience and training – we are committed the growth and development of women, including those on our Board. Directors are encouraged to take on roles within the Board and committees that stretch their current skill sets.

There is an opportunity for exposure and involvement at a national and international level with YWCA Canada and the World YWCA.

Membership

A membership is required to serve on the Board. You can learn more about membership and purchase one here: [YWCA of Edmonton](https://www.ywcaedmonton.org/) or contact Nicole Breland at the YWCA office n.breland@ywcaedm.org.

Calendar of Significant Events (2022)

- April 27, 2022 – AGM
- May TBD – New Board Member Orientation

- June TBD – Board Retreat

Board Executive Positions

- President
- Vice President (2 positions)
- Treasurer
- Secretary

Standing Board Committees

- Finance and Audit
- Nominating/Human Resources

Ad Hoc Board Committees and Working Groups

- Governance (ad hoc)
- Action Towards Reconciliation

Recruiting Process

Interviews for Board positions are held in February. Selected candidates will be able to attend the March Board meeting in order to meet other Board members and get a feel for what the Board meetings are all about. New Board members are voted in at the AGM in April.

Is This For You?

If you have questions or are interested in becoming a Director, please complete the online application form [here](#) **no later than January 15, 2022**. For more information, contact the YWCA [here](#).

Other Volunteer Opportunities

YWCA Edmonton is seeking to expand its volunteer base and opportunities for engagement. Please contact YWCA Edmonton at volunteer@ywcaedm.org or 780-423-YWCA ext. 240 if you wish to become involved.

This is an exciting time to be a part of YWCA Edmonton. Thank you for your interest in the Board!

www.ywcaofedmonton.org

www.ywcayowochas.org