

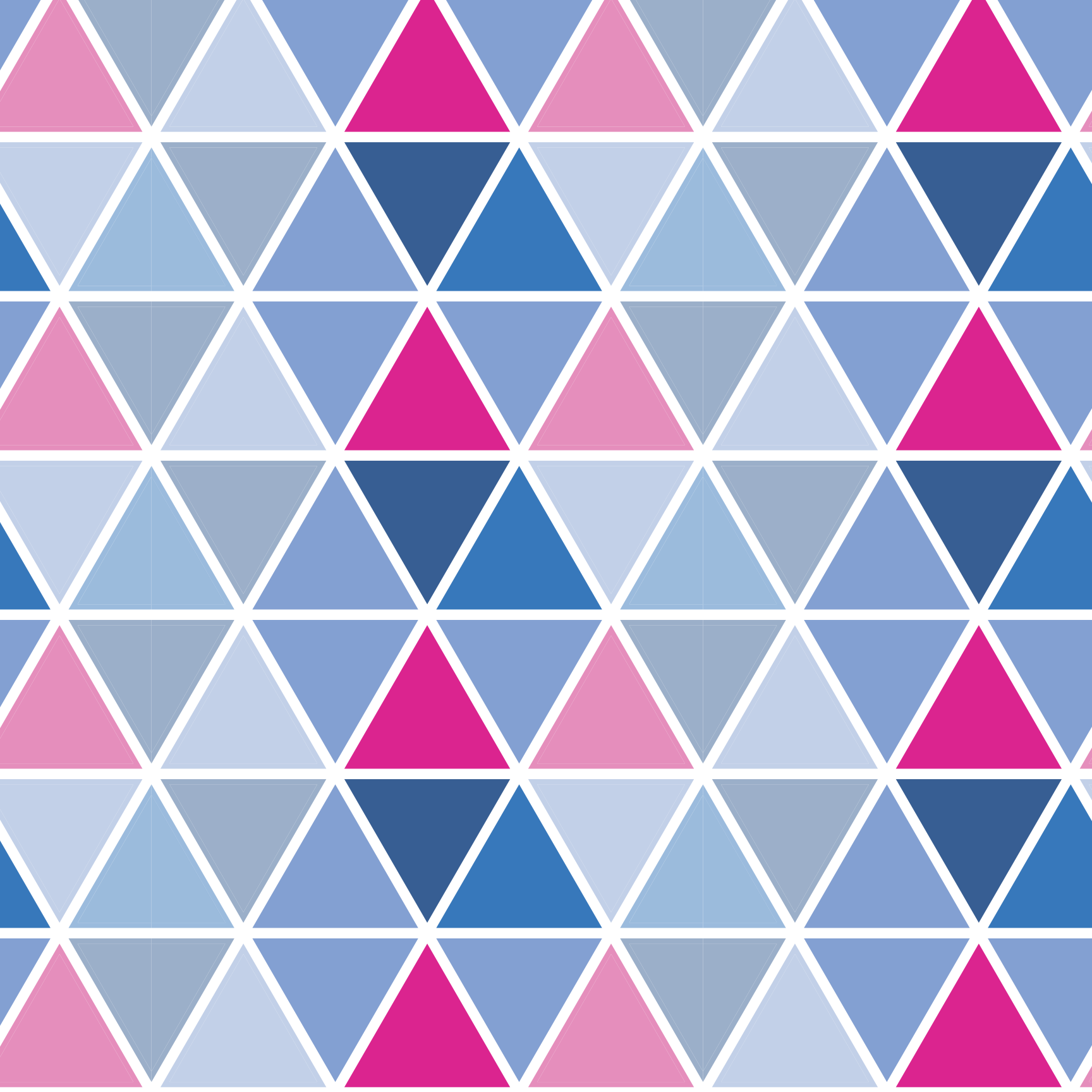
YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE.
ENRICHING LIVES

2023/2024 GRATITUDE REPORT TO COMMUNITY





YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

150TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



YWCA HALIFAX IS SITUATED ON THE UNCEDED TERRITORIES OF THE MI'KMAW PEOPLE.

This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Mi’kmaq Wəlastəkwiyyik (Maliseet), and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1725. We are all Treaty people.

YWCA Halifax is committed to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report and remains dedicated to active allyship.

YWCA Halifax recognizes that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi’kma’ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years. We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people with collective rights tied to over 52 land-based communities.

YWCA Halifax seeks to have this acknowledgement be used to educate and incite implementation of short-term and long-term actions which aim to break down systemic and institutional racism faced by African Nova Scotians.

YWCA Halifax desires these two separate and equally important acknowledgements be seen as a starting point in our work towards reconciliation and our continuous work of understanding the ways that colonial histories and present colonial impacts affect participants, employees, partners, supporters, and our wider community.

WHAT IS 150 YEARS?

Founded in 1874 by a group of volunteers, enshrined by an Act of Incorporation by the Nova Scotia legislature in 1897, and registered as a charity in 1967, YWCA Halifax has been a gathering place, source of support, and voice on gender justice for 150 years.

“150 YEARS OF DREAMS AND HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS. 150 YEARS OF IMPACT STORIES.

Think of the women who arrived at Pier 21 to be met by friendly YWCA faces. Or the young people who arrived in the city and had nowhere to stay but found shelter at the YWCA. The women who learned computer skills at the YWCA and found good jobs. Think of the girls who hit the ball in YWCA softball teams and those who performed in YWCA plays, attended YWCA summer camps, lived in our residences, read in our reading room, learned about medicine or business.

Think of the Two Spirit who raise their families in YWCA housing today. Or who contribute to our community by having their children in our family home or early learning centres. The gender diverse people who have just arrived in Canada and are supported to open a bank account. To start their business. To learn English. Young people who are supported to safety and healing.

“WE ARE GRATEFUL TO ALL THOSE WHO CARRIED THE TORCH BEFORE US. AND WE REMAIN EVER READY TO SERVE AND RESPOND TOMORROW.

Through both World Wars, the invention of computers, the start of public child and health care, multiple governments, pandemics, and natural disasters, through the Halifax Explosion and the amalgamation of Halifax, onward the YWCA has marched.

“ADVOCATING ALWAYS FOR WOMEN’S RIGHTS AND GENDER JUSTICE.

What Must Be Accomplished For The Greater Halifax

BEFORE Halifax can take its rightful place as a prominent city in the capital of an important Province—it is essential that the city should be equipped with the following facilities:

1. —Adequate Cold Storage Facilities at the Ocean Terminals.
2. —A Bridge across the Harbor, connecting Halifax and Dartmouth.
3. —Adequate Parking Space, to relieve the traffic congestion in the centre of the City.
4. —A Modern Y. W. C. A. for the young women of this city.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

SOME WONDER IF THE “C” IN OUR NAME STILL HOLDS MEANING TODAY. WHILE THE YWCA WAS FOUNDED AS A CHRISTIAN ORGANIZATION, A SHIFT BEGAN AT THE 1910 WORLD YWCA CONFERENCE IN BERLIN, DRIVEN BY THE CHALLENGES OF INDUSTRIALIZATION. BY 1920, THE FOCUS ON EVANGELISM WAS REPLACED WITH A MISSION TO TACKLE SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ISSUES. IN 1930, THE WORLD YWCA MOVED ITS HEADQUARTERS FROM LONDON TO GENEVA, ALIGNING WITH THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS GLOBALLY.

TODAY, WITH HEADQUARTERS STILL IN GENEVA AND YWCAS IN 120 COUNTRIES, WE PROUDLY STAND AS PART OF THE WORLD’S OLDEST AND LARGEST WOMEN’S MOVEMENT.

YWCA HALIFAX IS A FULLY SECULAR ORGANIZATION, GOVERNED BY, EMPLOYING, SUPPORTING, AND PARTNERING WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL BACKGROUNDS.



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

OUR PURPOSE



YWCA Halifax is for and by women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender diverse people. Together we're building a future of gender equity by creating opportunities and supports for child care, education, employment, housing, financial security, and more.

We transform lives by providing a continuum of supports that build on people's strengths to create lasting, positive change for people in the Halifax Regional Municipality and throughout Nova Scotia.

We strive to change the root causes of inequality, violence, poverty, and homelessness.

OUR VISION

We envision a more equitable world in which women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender diverse people feel a strong sense of belonging and are empowered to live their lives fully and with dignity.

OUR MISSION

Rooted in our community, we support and provide a strong voice for women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender diverse people and their families and create opportunities for them to thrive.

OUR VALUES

Equity – Self-Determination – Freedom of Choice – Security – Collaboration – Responsiveness – Sustainability

OUR 2023/2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jennifer Ashton
Board President
Communications Consultant, Up Public Relations

Sylvia Parris Drummond
Board Vice President
CEO, Delmore "Buddy" Daye Learning Institute

Kate Shewan
Board Treasurer
Finance and Administration Director,
Nova Scotia Barristers' Society

Sharon Ishimwe
Board Secretary
Founder, Engero Productions



DIRECTORS

Alma Khalouf
Commercial Senior Credit Analyst,
TD Bank

Barrinique N. Griffin
Program Manager,
Dalhousie Emera ideaHUB

Camilla Quaglia
Senior Executive Recruiter, KBRS

Chika Chiekwe
Partner, Cox and Palmer

Daniella Sam
Executive Recruiter, KBRS

Eva Parada
Senior Director Design and
Construction, Crombie REIT

Hanaa Al Sharief
Partner, McInnes Cooper

Haneen Al-Noman
Judicial Law Clerk,
Supreme Court of Canada

Leslie Bishop
Chairperson of Family Assembly,
Scotia Investments

Nikki Martin
Writer, Yoga Teacher,
Brand Ambassador at Lululemon

Sumaya El-falah
Co-chair of the Accessibility Advisory
Committee at
Mount Saint Vincent University

YOUNG WOMEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION
"The Door of Opportunity"



267 BARRINGTON STREET
HALIFAX, N. S.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

THE 1928 BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN
BOARD, TASKED WITH RAISING \$200,000,
HAD 68 MEMBERS INCLUDING
8 EXECUTIVES, 7 VICE CHAIRMEN,
AND 13 DIVISION GENERALS.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

DEAR FRIENDS OF YWCA HALIFAX,

Looking back on the past year, we are deeply grateful for the support of our community, partners, and dedicated staff.

“TOGETHER, WE ARE MAKING A SIGNIFICANT AND LASTING DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF WOMEN, GIRLS, TWO SPIRIT AND GENDER DIVERSE INDIVIDUALS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

YWCA Halifax has taken bold steps to address some of our community's most pressing issues. We recognize that stable housing is foundational to a fulfilling life, and are actively pursuing and expanding our housing programs, ensuring more individuals and families have access to secure, dignified living conditions. Our commitment extends beyond simply providing shelter; it's about creating environments where individuals can rebuild their lives, find stability, and confidently work toward their goals.

In addition to our housing initiatives, we have expanded our early learning and child care offerings. Understanding that access to quality, affordable child care is essential for women's economic empowerment, we have increased the availability of our programs. These expanded services better support women and their families, enabling them to participate fully in the workforce, pursue education, and achieve greater economic independence. By providing safe and nurturing spaces for children, we are investing in the future of our community.

“THIS YEAR HOLDS PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE AS WE CELEBRATE OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY. REFLECTING ON OUR RICH HISTORY, WE SEE HOW FAR WE HAVE COME SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN 1874. YWCA HALIFAX HAS EVOLVED, RESPONDING TO THE CHANGING NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHILE STAYING TRUE TO OUR MISSION OF ELIMINATING GENDER INEQUALITY AND PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE. OUR MILESTONES ARE A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF COMMUNITY AND THE RELEVANCE OF OUR WORK.

As we look toward the future, we are excited to continue this legacy of leadership, empowerment, and advocacy. Your support is vital in helping us build a more equitable and inclusive community. Together, we will continue to make a difference for the next 150 years and beyond.

With deep appreciation,



Jennifer Ashton,
YWCA Halifax Board
President



Sylvia Parris-Drummond,
YWCA Halifax Board
Vice-President

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DEAR FRIENDS,

The 1908 YWCA Halifax Annual Report is carefully stored at the Nova Scotia Archives. I read it recently, eager to see how much is the same over a century later. Maybe I shouldn't have been surprised to discover that the YWCA of today is so very, very different.

By women, for women, about women. That still (mostly) holds. But even more is the thing that has made us relevant today: an unflappable commitment to be ready to change and do what is needed.

As a result, over the past 150 years, we have added new programs, dropped others. We have added new properties, sold others. We have listened to our community and responded as the times have required. Modular housing. Cyberviolence. Women in skilled trades. Human trafficking. Early learning and licensed child care. Gender justice and equity and inclusion. These weren't the priorities or language of 1874 but are among some of our most pressing issues today.

“LITTLE BY LITTLE, WE HAVE BUILT AN ORGANIZATION OF NEARLY 200 STAFF, 84 OWNED AND LEASED LOCATIONS, AND SERVING THOUSANDS OF WOMEN, GIRLS, TWO SPIRIT, AND GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE EACH YEAR. WE CONTINUE THIS TRAJECTORY OF RESPONSIVE AND INNOVATIVE SUPPORTS AND ADVOCACY. I'M PROUD TO INCLUDE IN THIS REPORT A COPY OF OUR 2025-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN AND OUR VISION FOR TOMORROW.

None of this is the legacy of one person. It is the collective and unbroken efforts of thinkers, activists, caregivers, supporters, cheerleaders, builders, donors, artists, visionaries, and all those who proudly hold fast to the vision of a just and equitable future. Every day at the YWCA I am humbled by the vast sea of people who lend their efforts to this common project.

Thank you for another momentous year and a remarkable history.

In solidarity always,



Miia Suokonautio,
YWCA Halifax Executive Director

2023/2024 OUR IMPACT IN ACTION

YWCA HALIFAX DELIVERS INCLUSIVE AND RELEVANT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT EMPOWER AND TRANSFORM LIVES.

1000 FAMILIES SERVED THROUGH LICENSED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE CENTRES



315 HOME-BASED CHILD CARE SPACES APPROVED AND SUPPORTED

120 CHILDREN SERVED THROUGH FIVE BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS



195 INDIVIDUALS ACROSS THREE PROVINCES SERVED BY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

96 WOMEN-LED BUSINESSES SUPPORTED THROUGH ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMS AND...



3 ALUMS OPENED BUSINESS STOREFRONTS



32 PEOPLE HOUSED AT THE WAVERLEY



ANOTHER 84 WOMEN & 26 CHILDREN PROVIDED WITH SAFE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND SUPPORTS



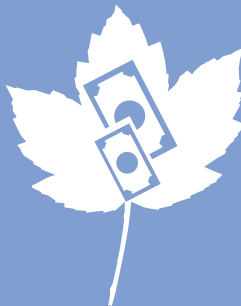
LAUNCH OF THE NOVA SCOTIA TRADES CONNECTION WEBSITE (WWW.NSTRADES.CA)



15 INDUSTRY AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS WORKING WITH YWCA TO ADVANCE WOMEN IN TRADES

1,100+

**TAXES FILED THROUGH
OUR NEW TO CANADA
PROGRAMS**



44

**UKRAINIAN FAMILIES (121 PEOPLE)
HELPED TO FIND & MAINTAIN HOUSING**



100



**MICROLOANS FOR RENT, MOVING
COSTS, AND EMERGENCY NEEDS FOR
THOSE LEAVING VIOLENCE**

58



**PEOPLE PROVIDED
WITH EMERGENCY
CELL PHONES**



35

**FAMILIES OF
THOSE WHO
ARE EXPLOITED
OR TRAFFICKED
SUPPORTED**



26

**PRESENTATIONS
FOR SCHOOLS
AND COMMUNITY
GROUPS ON HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
AND SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION**



86

**VICTIMS AND
SURVIVORS OF
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
AND SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION
SUPPORTED BY PEER
WORKERS**



6

**SURVIVORS OF
TRAFFICKING
RECEIVED
RESPONSIVE AND
SAFE HOUSING**

500

**YOUNG
PEOPLE SERVED
THROUGH
YOUTH
PROGRAMS AND
CYBERVIOLENCE
INITIATIVES**



20

**STUDENTS AND
THEIR MENTEES
PARTICIPATED
IN YLEADERS
MENTORSHIP
PROGRAM**

NEARLY 1,000 FAMILIES SERVED IN 2023/24 THROUGH THE YWCA CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING CENTRES



In 2023/2024, YWCA Halifax celebrated key milestones, including redeveloping the Dartmouth Child Development Centre playground, acquiring the YWCA Elmsdale Early Learning Centre, and expanding to five before and after school programs in Spryfield. Our dedication to excellence in early childhood education shines through our approval as an NSCC Lab School for ECE students, our Eating Around the World nutrition program, and the Inclusion Support program at each centre.





“AFTER CONSIDERING MANY DIFFERENT CHILD CARE CENTRES, WE BECAME PART OF THE YWCA HALIFAX FAMILY IN 2018. THE YWCA PROVIDES A NURTURING, CARING, LOVING, FUN, SAFE, AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT. THE DIVERSITY AT THE YWCA IS EVIDENT. NOT ONLY WITH THE CHILDREN, BUT THE STAFF AS WELL. ALL CULTURES AND ETHNICITIES ARE CELEBRATED, THROUGH FOOD – BY THEIR AMAZING COOK- BOOKS, CRAFTS, CLOTHES, ETC. EVERYONE IS CELEBRATED. I LOVE THIS! THE YWCA STAFF HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ENGAGING. AS A PARENT I’VE ALWAYS FELT WELCOMED. I WISH EVERY FAMILY HAD A CENTRE (FAMILY) LIKE THE YWCA HALIFAX. THEY REALLY DO ROCK!”

Child Care and Early Learning programs make a huge difference in communities, allowing children to thrive while parents manage work, school, and family decisions. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how crucial child care is, especially for women. YWCA Halifax remains committed to expanding and improving our programs, supported by a passionate and diverse staff whose dedication is the heart of our team.



EIGHTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1956

YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

YESTERDAY

The Y.W.C.A. of Halifax was organized in 1871 for the purpose of providing a place for young women to meet and to be the part of that work.

TODAY

It has grown and today the Y.W.C.A. of Halifax is a recognized institution and is proud to be the first Y.W.C.A. in Nova Scotia.

TOMORROW

The new Y.W.C.A. building sketched here will meet the needs of today and tomorrow, and give a swimming pool and new activities. The Building Fund of \$1,200,000.00 is being raised in three year instalments.



HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

YWCA HALIFAX WAS AMONG THE FIRST LICENSED CHILD CARE CENTRES IN NOVA SCOTIA IN THE 1960S.



THE FAMILY HOME CHILD CARE CONTINUES TO EXPAND WITH 315 APPROVED SPACES AVAILABLE IN 2023/2024



The Family Home Child Care program empowers independent providers to offer care in their homes under a licensed agency. YWCA Halifax, Nova Scotia's largest approved agency for over 11 years, supported 45 private operators with 315 child care spaces this past year. Many of these homes are led by mothers who couldn't find care for their own children and stepped up to meet the needs of their communities.





“BEING A FAMILY HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDER WITH THE YWCA HAS BEEN A REWARDING EXPERIENCE OFFERING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE MY OWN BUSINESS, AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO RETURN TO COLLEGE TO OBTAIN A 2-YEAR ECE DIPLOMA. BEING ACCEPTED INTO THE DIPLOMA PROGRAM WAS A VERY EMPOWERING MOMENT FOR ME. THANK YOU FOR ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES I HAVE BEEN AFFORDED, MY LIFE HAS BEEN MADE BETTER WITH THE HELP OF THE WOMEN OF THE YWCA HALIFAX.”

STEPHANIE MACINTYRE, FAMILY HOME CHILD CARE PROVIDER

The Family Home Child Care program ensures quality education for children, offers care options for families, and supports mostly women-run small businesses. Thanks to federal support, providers can now offer reduced daily fees, making home child care more accessible. In 2023/2024, YWCA began offering private providers RRSP and healthcare benefits - something not offered previously to this workforce - along with \$7,500 start-up funding, professional development, resources, and dedicated support from the YWCA Family Home Child Care team.



“WIFE IN GIRD WORKING IN COTTON MILLS.” At 66 Hollis Street, 1899 - 1911

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

YWCA HALIFAX HAS CHAMPIONED WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKFORCE SINCE ITS INCEPTION. FROM 1891 TO 1931, WE RAN A CLUB FOR WOMEN WORKING IN COTTON MILLS AT 66 HOLLIS STREET. THIS LEGACY IS ONE OF THE MANY REASONS WE REMAIN DEEPLY COMMITTED TO CHILD CARE AND EARLY LEARNING TODAY.

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOPE

Access to housing is crucial for women and gender-diverse individuals to achieve economic security, escape violence, and thrive. Tragically, despite years of progress, homelessness among these groups has risen in Halifax and Nova Scotia, particularly affecting lone mothers and senior women. YWCA Halifax provides secure, affordable housing and comprehensive support to help break the cycle of homelessness.

“HOUSING IS ESSENTIAL TO A PERSON’S SENSE OF DIGNITY, SAFETY, INCLUSION, AND ABILITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR COMMUNITY,”

KRISTA DUNN, HOUSING MANAGER

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR YOUNG MOTHERS (SHYM)

LAST YEAR SHYM SERVED A TOTAL OF 20 PARTICIPANTS AND 26 CHILDREN AT OUR TWO SHYM LOCATIONS.

The Supportive Housing for Young Mothers (SHYM) program has been instrumental in providing long-term housing, parenting support, and life skills development for lone mothers and young mothers aged 16 to 24.

SHYM provides stability, support, and opportunities for personal and educational growth.



“WITHOUT YWCA AND SHYM I WOULD NOT BE WHERE I AM TODAY, AND I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO EVEN THINK ABOUT RETURNING TO SCHOOL. I WOULD NOT HAVE THIS SMALL ISLAND OF IMMENSE SUPPORT DURING A TIME WHEN EVERYTHING IN THE WORLD FEELS UNSTABLE AND UNMANAGEABLE,”

ELYSE*, SHYM PARTICIPANT

The SHYM program has been essential in helping young mothers pursue their goals while offering a stable, supportive environment for their families. A key focus is preserving family integrity and keeping children out of the child welfare system. By breaking the cycle of intergenerational involvement, SHYM gives families the opportunity to thrive together in love.

WOMEN IN SUPPORTED HOUSING

IN 2023/2024, WISH PROVIDED 39 PEOPLE WITH SECURE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Women in Supported Housing (WISH) brings stability and hope with affordable, supported housing in dispersed apartments and condos for women and gender-diverse people. WISH participants also receive extra support, including employment programs, help with rebuilding independence, and guidance in pursuing personal goals.

“LAST YEAR IN WISH, KELSIE* ATTENDED AN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE YWCA HALIFAX. HER HARD WORK LED HER TO SECURE A JOB WITH HER PLACEMENT COMPANY,”

HOUSING SUPPORT WORKER

In 2023, we added a Housing Team Lead to provide essential crisis and case management support. Our Housing Team now includes two Housing Support Workers: one for intake on Halifax's *By Name List, and another for those transitioning from SHYM. This year, YWCA Halifax also teamed up with The Youth Project to create a dedicated role supporting 2SLGBTQI+ youth with their housing needs.

* Note that the By Name List is a voluntary list that prioritizes homeless and precariously housed individuals and families based on need and matches them to suitable and available housing.

The Housing Problem in Halifax And The Y.W.C.A.

The Young Women's Christian Association...

In other words, the Y.W.C.A. is doing everything possible to make Halifax a better place for our girls to live in.

The Demand Upon The Y.W.C.A. For Rooms...

In assuming the responsibility for the comfort of our girls the Y.W.C.A. has incurred a debt of \$12,000. And Needs Your Support.

What have YOU done to make Halifax a better place for our girls to live in? W.M.M.U. 1900

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

FOR OVER A CENTURY, YWCA HALIFAX HAS BEEN A SAFE HAVEN FOR WOMEN. DURING WWI, WE PROVIDED LODGING FOR WOMEN COMING TO THE CITY FOR FACTORY WORK. OUR FIRST BUILDING AT 222 BRUNSWICK STREET (1874-1899) MARKED THE START OF OUR LONG HISTORY. BY 2005, WE WERE PROUDLY RECOGNIZED BY THE CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION AS HALIFAX'S FIRST HOUSING FIRST PROGRAM THROUGH OUR WOMEN IN SUPPORTED HOUSING (WISH) INITIATIVE.

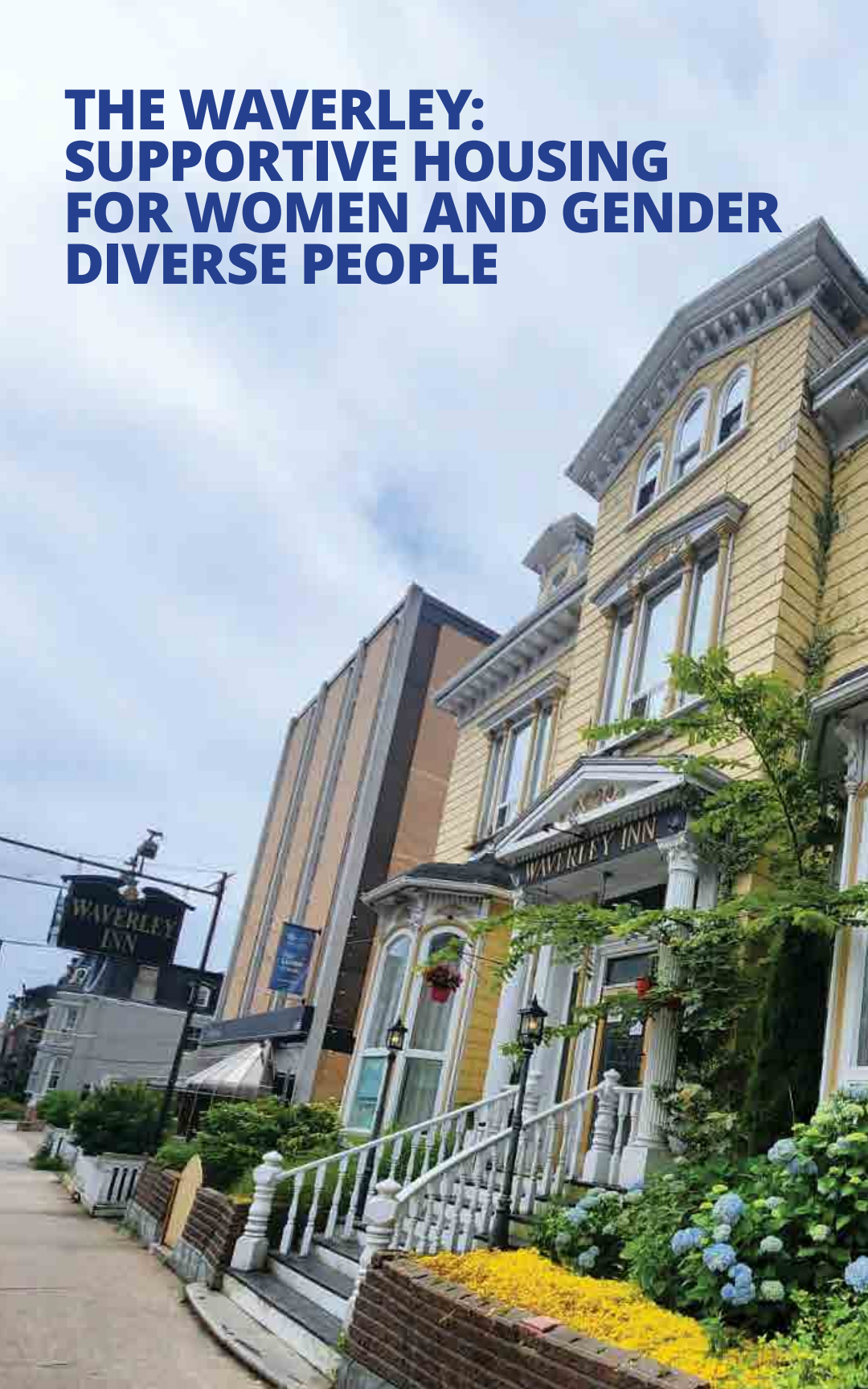
THE WAVERLEY: SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR WOMEN AND GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE

In February 2024, YWCA Halifax proudly opened The Waverley, a new housing program with 32 supportive units. A collaborative effort with the Government of Nova Scotia, Grafton Developments, and Halifax Municipality, The Waverley is housed in the historic Waverley Inn, offering private bachelor suites and a communal kitchen. It prioritizes women and gender-diverse individuals from Halifax's homelessness list.

"I'M HOME IN MY CASTLE,"

**RHONDA*, FIRST RESIDENT WHEN
MOVING INTO THE WAVERLEY**

The Waverley's success is driven by our dedicated staff, who provide 24/7 personalized case management and support. Their empowering work helps residents on their journey to stability and independence, making a remarkable difference each day.





HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

YWCA HALIFAX HAS A HISTORY OF HOUSING FOR WOMEN AT THE WAVERLEY INN - IN THE 1920S AND NOW IN 2024. THE ORIGINAL PROGRAM WAS CALLED THE BLUE TRIANGLE AFTER THE YWCA LOGO.



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

VIOLENCE TO RESILIENCE



461 PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND RESOURCE NAVIGATION

100 MICROLOANS WERE GIVEN THROUGH THE DECEMBER 6TH FUND

236 PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED GIFT CARDS

58 PARTICIPANTS RECEIVED CELLPHONES

7 FAMILIES WERE SUPPORTED FOR CHRISTMAS

3 PREGNANT WOMEN WERE SUPPORTED WITH NEW BABY SUPPLIES

Across Canada, gender-based violence and human trafficking tragically claim lives, with rising femicide rates deeply impacting families and communities. YWCA Halifax is committed to ending violence against women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender diverse people. We offer housing solutions, transitional living, and financial support for survivors in Nova Scotia, working to make a difference in their lives.

EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

YWCA Halifax provides interest-free microloans and non-repayable grants to survivors of gender-based violence to help cover costs to safely leave abusive situations, including damage deposits, rent, utilities, and more. In 2023/2024, we expanded our support through the National Emergency Survivor Support Fund (NESS) and the Survivor Assistance Grant (SAG), filling a crucial gap for survivors and their children. This year, we provided 170 SAG and NESS grants.

“I DIDN’T KNOW WHAT I WAS GOING TO DO. I WAS ALONE, I WAS STRESSED OUT, AND I DIDN’T KNOW IF I COULD TAKE CARE OF MY KID BY MYSELF. I FELT LIKE A HORRIBLE MOTHER. I HAD EVERYTHING HE EVER SAID TO ME IN MY HEAD, AND IT WAS THE ONLY VOICE I COULD HEAR. I CALLED 211 FOR HELP, AND THEY TOLD ME TO CALL THE DECEMBER 6TH PROGRAM. ONCE I DID, THE PERSON WHO ANSWERED REALLY SEEMED TO CARE ABOUT MY STORY AND MY EXPERIENCE. SHE HELPED ME PAY THE POWER BILL IN MY NAME AT OUR OLD PLACE. I COULDN’T HOOK UP POWER IN A NEW PLACE UNTIL IT WAS PAID, SO I WAS ALMOST READY TO GO BACK. BUT I DIDN’T. ONCE THAT WAS PAID, I COULD THINK MORE CLEARLY, AND I KNEW I COULD REACH OUT AND TALK TO SOMEONE AT THE YWCA ANY TIME I NEEDED. I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE A PLAN AND START MY LIFE OVER. I WANT TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL, AND I WANT TO BE THE BEST MOM I CAN BE FOR MY SON,”

LEYANNE*, DECEMBER 6TH FUND PARTICIPANT

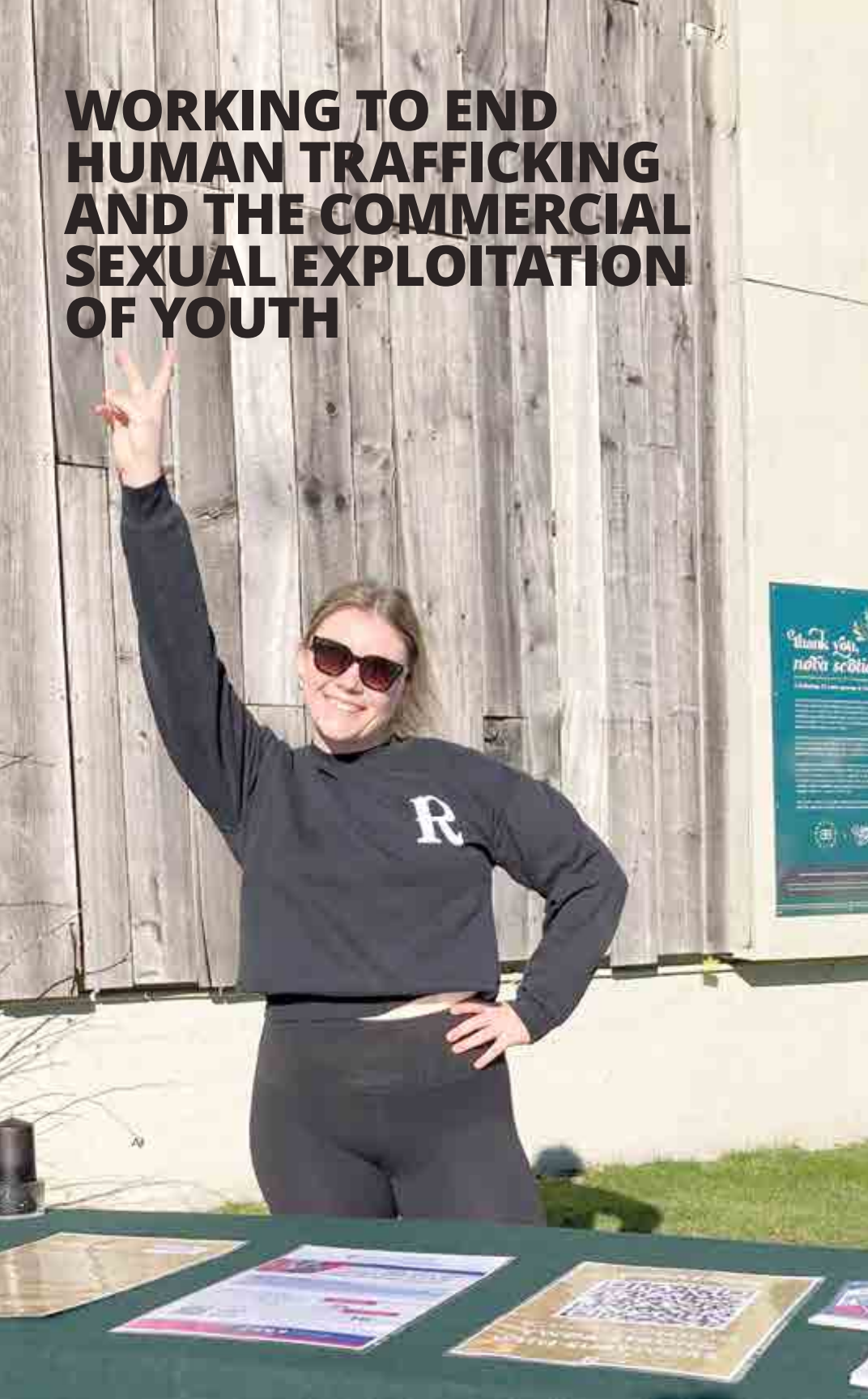
WORKING TO END HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND THE COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH

**35 PARTICIPANTS SUPPORTED
AND 26 PRESENTATIONS
FACILITATED BY THE FAMILY
AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH
WORKER**

**86 PARTICIPANTS ACROSS NOVA
SCOTIA RECEIVED SUPPORT WITH
NSTAY**

**SIX SURVIVORS HOUSED IN
2023/24 THROUGH SAFER SPACES**

Halifax has the highest rates of human trafficking and sexual exploitation among Canadian cities, with young girls and youth being the most vulnerable, especially those from racialized and Indigenous communities, low-income families, and the child welfare system. Addressing these issues and recognizing the unique vulnerabilities of different groups is an important equity concern.



NOVA SCOTIA TRANSITION AND ADVOCACY FOR YOUTH (NSTAY)

The Nova Scotia Transition and Advocacy for Youth (NSTAY) program, through peer outreach workers, supports youth aged 13 to 24 who have been exploited or trafficked, helping them escape unsafe situations, heal, and plan for the future. The YWCA Family and Community Outreach Worker (FCOW) assists families whose child is, or is at risk of, being groomed, sexually exploited, or trafficked. In 2023/2024, the FCOW supported 35 participants and facilitated 26 presentations, with referrals coming from various sources from across the province, including Victim Services, Schools Plus, the Department of Community Services, the NS Provincial Human Trafficking team, and self-referrals.



“AS A PARENT OF AN EXPLOITED CHILD, I HAD MANY QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS. THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT REQUIRES CONFIDENTIALITY AND A LOT OF LATE-NIGHT SUPPORT.

“TRENA HAS BEEN BOTH A BLESSING AND A GIFT IN MY LIFE. I AM A SINGLE MOTHER WITH NO LIVING FAMILY. WHILE THE NSTAY PROGRAM OFFERS SUPPORT, THE EMPATHY AND PROFESSIONALISM THAT TRENA OFFERED WAS ABOVE AND BEYOND. FRANKLY, I DON’T KNOW HOW I WOULD HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT HER OVER THESE LAST 5 YEARS.

“AS A RESULT OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST MY DAUGHTER, I SUFFER FROM PTSD. TRENA AND THE NSTAY PROGRAM HAVE BEEN CRUCIAL TO MY WELL-BEING. SHE REPRESENTS THE BEST OF HUMANITY AND SHE HELPS TO KEEP ME SEEING LIGHT THROUGH THE DARKEST OF TIMES. PLEASE CONSIDER ME FOREVER INDEBTED TO BOTH TRENA AND THE NSTAY PROGRAM,”

VIOLETA*, PARENT

NSTAY peer outreach workers offer comprehensive support to survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. In 2023/2024, they assisted 86 participants across Nova Scotia. This year, they launched an innovative Internship Development Program to empower individuals with lived experience to become peer outreach workers. Combining classroom education with practical training, the program aims to turn personal experiences into a powerful force for community change. We’re excited to see the positive impact our interns will make moving forward.

SAFER SPACES

Safer Spaces is an emergency transitional housing program designed for young people aged 18-29 who have experienced sexual exploitation or human trafficking and are exiting or no longer engaged in the sex trade. The program is intentionally small, providing a therapeutic home-like atmosphere to promote healing. Residents stay until they are ready to move.



"IT'S SO COMFORTING TO KNOW THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS OUTSIDE THESE DOORS, THERE'S ALWAYS A WARM, WELCOMING, SAFE HOME TO RETURN TO. NO MATTER HOW SHITTY OF A DAY IT COULD POSSIBLY BE, THERE ARE ALWAYS PEOPLE I CAN TRUST WHO ARE NOT FAR AWAY.

"WE COME TO YOU BROKEN, BEATEN DOWN AND UNTRUSTING. BUT YOU SHOW US WHAT REAL TRUST IS. YOU HELP MEND OUR BROKEN SPIRITS AND HEAL OUR WOUNDED SOULS. YOU LIFT US UP AND EMPOWER US. YOU LEAD US THROUGH TOUGH TIMES AND CELEBRATE EVERY VICTORY NO MATTER HOW SMALL.

"YOU SHOW US THAT WE DON'T NEED TO BE ASHAMED OR AFRAID OF WHO WE ARE. BUT TO TRULY EMBRACE OURSELVES. YOU TEACH US TO STAND UP FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE IN. YOU TEACH US TO STAND UP FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE IN. YOU TEACH US SELF-WORTH AND SELF-LOVE. ALONG WITH SELF-RESPECT AND THE POWER TO TRULY BE US.

"EVEN THOUGH WE MAY ONLY BE HERE FOR A SHORT TIME, YOU AND THE LESSONS YOU TEACH US WILL FOREVER AND ALWAYS BE IN OUR HEARTS AND WE LEAVE HERE, NOT ONLY AS A TOTALLY NEW PERSON THAN WHEN WE ARRIVED, BUT AS LUCKY,"

ALMA*, SAFER SPACES PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

PROPERTY PURCHASED BY Y.W. C.A.

Home of the Late Wylie
Smith to be New Home of
the Association.

THE WYLIE SMITH property on Barrington street, opposite the Ladies' College, has been purchased by the Halifax Y. W. C. A. for a new home. It was originally intended to build on the old Military Headquarters site, next to the new Capitol

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

RECENTLY WE HIRED A NEW DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE WHO CREDITS ATTENDING THE YWCA'S WEN-DO WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENCE PROGRAM IN 1994 AS A TRANSFORMATIVE AND EMPOWERING EXPERIENCE FOR HER. IN THE 1950S, YWCA HALIFAX PROVIDED SAFE REFUGE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN OUR FORMER GYM ON BARRINGTON STREET BEFORE A YOUTH SHELTER OPENED IN HALIFAX IN THE 1980S. WE CHARGED 25 CENTS PER NIGHT TO COVER THE COST OF FOOD.



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



**77 INDIVIDUALS ACROSS 3
PROVINCES EQUIPPED WITH
THE TOOLS AND RESOURCES
TO THRIVE IN PROFESSIONAL
ENDEAVOURS**

**31 PARTICIPANTS SECURED
EMPLOYMENT UPON PROGRAM
COMPLETION**

**130 VALUABLE COMMUNITY
NETWORKING CONNECTIONS
ESTABLISHED**

LAUNCH ATLANTIC

Launch Atlantic supports youth across multiple provinces, helping them overcome employment barriers and build the skills needed for a successful transition to the workforce or return to school.

“THIS COURSE HAD ME SEE WHAT I HAVE TO OFFER ALONG WITH GIVING ME NEW RESOURCES AND SKILLS TO SUCCEED,”

JORDAN*, LAUNCH ATLANTIC PARTICIPANT

“IT MADE ME REALIZE MY SELF-WORTH AND TO NOT HESITATE TO APPLY FOR A JOB JUST BECAUSE OF SELF-DOUBTING OR FEAR OF REJECTION OR FEELING UNQUALIFIED. TAKE RISKS AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ANY OPPORTUNITY. DON’T LET FEAR AND DOUBT HOLD YOU BACK,”

JAYNE*, LAUNCH ATLANTIC PARTICIPANT



RELAUNCH ATLANTIC

84 PARTICIPANTS SERVED OVER THREE PROVINCES

Relaunch Atlantic empowers women and gender-diverse individuals (30 years +) across three Atlantic Provinces to transition towards employment readiness. The program focuses on the participation of individuals who experience increased barriers and challenges when entering the workforce, including women with disabilities, women with lived experience of criminalization or incarceration, and 2SLGBTQ+ women, among other groups.

“ONE PARTICIPANT WHO INITIALLY HAD LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF MICROSOFT WORD AND EXCEL, WAS SUCCESSFULLY HIRED AS A BRAND AMBASSADOR AFTER COMPLETING THE PROGRAM. THEIR NEWFOUND SKILLS WERE CRUCIAL IN SECURING THE POSITION, HIGHLIGHTING THE PROGRAM’S ROLE IN EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS AND BRIDGING THE GAP TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES,”

BELINDA LEBLANC, TEAM LEAD

ACCESS

6 NEW COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS SERVED

ACCESS is a free, supportive employment program designed to help people with mental health challenges find stable jobs. In 2023/2024, participants engaged in meaningful community actions, like creating survival kits for those affected by homelessness through donation drives and community sourcing.

“THE IMPACT OF THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN INCREDIBLY POSITIVE, AND IT CONTINUES TO MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE IT SERVES,”

LAURA SWAINE, PROGRAM MANAGER



STEP AHEAD

49 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST TO JOIN AND 7 PARTICIPANTS ACCEPTING OUR OFFER TO PARTICIPATE

This year, the redesigned StepAhead program was a hit, leading to continued participation and engagement. Participants took part in workshops on competence, resilience, self-regulation, and employment skills, and earned certifications in First Aid and WHMIS. They also explored apprenticeships and skilled trades through a Nova Scotia Sector Council visit.

Highlights include one participant securing a work placement and another, a former welder, receiving welding gear and practice time to ease their return to the trade.

Peer learning and hands-on activities boosted practical skills, confidence, and a strong sense of community among participants.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MICHNAT FASHIONS, SHONE BRIGHTLY AT THE 2024 JUNO AWARDS WITH THEIR STUNNING RED-CARPET DRESSES

16 ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPANTS

In 2023/2024, our Business Builders and PowerUp programs engaged 16 enthusiastic participants, while our entrepreneurship events reached over 80 people. We're thrilled to celebrate three alums who opened their first storefronts this year: Blush Decor, Michnat Fashions, and 9ja Kitchen.

Looking ahead, we're excited to launch the YWCA Flourish Fund (YFF), which will provide direct financial support to emerging women and gender-diverse entrepreneurs in our YWCA Entrepreneurship Hub.

Explore our network of women-run businesses, including those led by newcomers, at [ywcahalifax.com/programs/entrepreneurship/our-entrepreneurship-network/](https://www.ywcahalifax.com/programs/entrepreneurship/our-entrepreneurship-network/)



MORE SINGLE GIRLS THAN SINGLE MEN IN HALIFAX JOBS

Report of Recent Industrial Survey of 10,000 Employees in 800 Halifax Business Establishments Shows That Maidens Greatly Out-number Bachelors, But That Married Men Are Very Numerous.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

IN SPRING 1928, YWCA HALIFAX ORGANIZED A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS TO FORM AN INDUSTRIAL SURVEY COMMITTEE. THE VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE OF 60 WOMEN FROM THE YWCA INTERVIEWED 800 EMPLOYERS IN HALIFAX, REPRESENTING SOME 10,000 EMPLOYEES. THEY FOUND THAT ONLY 243 WERE MARRIED WOMEN BUT SINGLE WOMEN SIGNIFICANTLY OUTNUMBERED SINGLE MEN.



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

WELCOMING NEWCOMERS TO OUR COMMUNITIES

146 WORKSHOPS AND ONE-ON-ONE SUPPORT MEETINGS CARRIED OUT IN 2023/24

753 PARTICIPANTS IN THE FREE INCOME TAX CLINIC

716 PARTICIPANTS IN NEWCOMER CLINICS

NEWCOMER SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Newcomer Support Program, formerly the Financial Literacy for Newcomers Program, provides ongoing training and workshops tailored to the needs and interests of newcomers and refugees. Group workshops cover topics like managing relationships with money, financial vocabulary, and free income tax clinics in collaboration with the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program. Conversation Classes offer women opportunities to discuss everyday life, cook, and learn sewing skills. One-on-one support includes budget preparation, applying for government benefits, credit cards, bank accounts, and RESP accounts.



UKRAINIAN SUPPORT PROGRAM

44 FAMILIES, COMPRISING 121 PEOPLE RECEIVED HOUSING

62 INDIVIDUALS ATTENDED FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMING

88 PEOPLE BENEFITED FROM TAX FILING INFORMATION SESSIONS

36 ATTENDEES AT HOUSING INFORMATION SESSIONS

74 INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOPS

77 PARTICIPANTS JOINED AN IMMIGRATION INFORMATION SESSION, AIMED AT HOW TO OBTAIN PERMANENT RESIDENCY STATUS IN CANADA WITH GUIDANCE FROM AN IMMIGRATION CONSULTANT

135 PERSONALIZED ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS

In 2023/24, the Ukrainian Support Program (USP) made significant strides in helping Ukrainian families settle and thrive in Halifax. By offering vital support in housing, employment, and financial literacy, the USP directly assisted 273 individuals. One-on-one meetings provided guidance on job searches, resume and cover letter writing, financial literacy, and GST/HST applications, while also connecting participants to community workshops and additional resources.



"I CAME TO CANADA IN JUNE 2022 WITH THE HOPE OF STARTING A NEW CHAPTER IN MY LIFE. RESILIENCE, HARD WORK, AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT HAVE BROUGHT ME TO WHERE I AM TODAY. I HAVE A JOB, AN APARTMENT, I ATTEND EVENING ENGLISH CLASSES. I'M MAKING HALIFAX MY HOME,"

DARYNA*, UKRAINIAN SUPPORT PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Halifax Young Women's Christian Association
66 HOLLIS ST.

BOARDING HOME

Accommodation for 41. Rates: \$3.50, \$2.75 and \$1.00 per week for Permanent Boarding, \$2.25 per day, and \$9.00 per week for Transient Boarding. Ladies boarding into Halifax for shopping will find the Building used either for an office, near the business quarter, a passage way, and Loading Room, all which are rent, and used as follows: (a) following rates: (b) \$1.00 per week for 24; (c) \$2.25 per week for 24; (d) \$3.50 per week for 24. It is desirable to be able to use an office in case of any emergency, in case of the Young Women's Christian Association 66 Hollis St. where any help or assistance possible will gladly be given.

ADDRESS
GENERAL SECRETARY, YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION,
66 HOLLIS STREET, HALIFAX, N. S.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

A 1957 YWCA HALIFAX PAMPHLET READS: "[THE YWCA] HAS NOW SPREAD TO 5 CONTINENTS AND 65 COUNTRIES. THE YWCA OF HALIFAX HAS COMPLETED 83 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE TO THIS COMMUNITY. THE NEEDS WHICH IT TRIED TO MEET THEN, ARE STILL WITH US TODAY – HOUSING – RECREATION – COMPANIONSHIP – HOPE – GUIDANCE. THE WORDS MAY DIFFER ACCORDING TO CIRCUMSTANCES AND GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS, BUT THE BOND OF FELLOWSHIP IS ALWAYS THE SAME.

ONE OF THE WAYS IN WHICH YWCA MEMBERS EXPRESS THEIR CONVICTIONS THAT "THE WORLD IS AT OUR DOOR" IS THROUGH THE WORLD SERVICE PROGRAMME. ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF SHARING CAN BE BASED IN DIRECT EXPERIENCE AS YWCA MEMBERS AROUND THE WORLD LEARN ABOUT ONE ANOTHER IN TERMS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

THE YWCA BELONGS TO MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD, BUT IT IS ALSO FOR ONE INDIVIDUAL. THE YWCA IS FOR HER – HER HEALTH, HER SKILLS."



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

YOUTH AT THE CENTRE



500 YOUNG PEOPLE SERVED THROUGH YOUTH PROGRAMS AND CYBERVIOLENCE INITIATIVES

20 STUDENTS AND THEIR MENTEES PARTICIPATED IN YLEADERS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

In 2023, YWCA Halifax made a significant impact on local youth, serving 500 individuals through our Open New Tab programs, YSpace and GuySpace, and partnering with several junior high schools. Our YLeaders Mentorship Program at JL Isley High School supported 20 students and their mentees, while the relaunch of the Youth Advisory Council brought together 20 young people to share their ideas.

A highlight was our senior youth's victory in the RBC Youth Health Innovation Challenge, where they developed a mental health app and advanced to the province-wide competition.



GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Y.M.C.A. Gymnasium
Halifax Y.W.C.A. vs. Truro
Wednesday, April 18th
8 p.m.
Admission: 25 Cents.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

IN 1919, YWCA HALIFAX HOSTED A CONFERENCE ENTITLED "HALIFAX LEADERSHIP AND GIRLS' WORK CONFERENCE" FOR "GIRLS OF 15 AND OVER." WE HAVE A LONG TRADITION OF BRINGING YOUNG WOMEN TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES OF THE DAY.

DID YOU KNOW THAT 25% OF THE YWCA HALIFAX BOARD IS UNDER THE AGE OF 30 WHEN THEY JOIN THE BOARD AND THAT THIS IS PART OF OUR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARD? COMMITMENT TO YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IS, WELL, IN OUR VERY NAME.



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES



SHIFT CHANGE

In 2023, Shift Change underwent a major transition, expanding its network from 7 to 15 agencies. Notably, Construction Safety joined as a WiSTAN (Women in Skilled Trades Advocacy Network) partner in the fall. We collaborated with partners like NSAA, Women Unlimited, and the Construction Association of Nova Scotia to support women, men, and gender diverse individuals in skilled trades. Initiatives such as WiSTAN gatherings and the Gender Inclusive Leadership Program strengthened these valuable connections.



On December 1, 2023, Shift Change hosted the "We Are Trades, A Workplace Learning Event," part of the We Are Trades (On the Level) training under the IDEAL funding initiative. Through a panel discussion, the event highlighted the experiences of women and gender-diverse individuals in the skilled trades, fostering meaningful discussions and insights. Some panel feedback included,



“IT’S REALLY DIFFICULT WHEN WE EXPECT WOMEN TO “FIX THE WORKPLACE ISSUES. IT’S AN ADDITIONAL JOB ON TOP OF DOING THEIR OWN WORK.”

“THERE IS A LOT OF EXTRA WORK THAT UNDERREPRESENTED PEOPLE HAVE TO DO, ADDITIONAL BURDEN.”

“COMPANIES CAN MAKE POLICY DECISIONS, THERE ARE THINGS THAT CAN BE CHANGED.”

“POLICIES REQUIRE INDIVIDUALS TO STAND UP FOR THEMSELVES BUT IT’S DIFFICULT TO ASK PEOPLE TO DO THAT IF THE CHALLENGES ARE COMING FROM A SUPERVISOR.”

On April 13th, 2023, Shift Change and WiSTAN launched the Nova Scotia Trades Connection website. This website was crucial for the project to connect even more women and gender-diverse people to skilled trade agencies. On March 8th, 2024, Shift Change released their report on women in the trades, entitled, *Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment in the Skilled Trades in Nova Scotia*. The Report explores the concerning levels of harassment that women and gender-diverse people experience in the skilled trades.

LEAD

Funded by the Province of Nova Scotia’s Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage Department, Leadership, Equity, Activity, Diversity (LEAD) was created from WANSAs (Women Active-NS) consultations. Its goal is to enhance access, experiences, and participation in sports and recreation for women, girls, and gender diverse individuals, fostering inclusive and safe spaces and support.

In 2023, the YWCA LEAD Program made impressive strides in promoting leadership, equity, activity, and diversity. Highlights include the successful launch of the “This Body Can EMPOW(H)ER Confidence – Sports Bras for Students” initiative at JL Illsley and Spryfield Family of Schools, with plans to expand to more schools in 2024. Partnerships with HRCE SchoolsPlus and local schools have been key in breaking down barriers to physical activity for female-identifying students.

The Nova Scotia Basketball Officials’ jurisdictional scan project concluded with recommendations embraced by the NSBO Board, showcasing the program’s commitment to inclusivity. Additionally, collaborations with ALNAAS and Dartmouth United Football Club have strengthened water safety, fitness, and leadership in sports.

LEAD’s dedication continues to drive positive change and foster equity in sports and recreation.





Trafficking & Exploitation Services System

TESS

The Trafficking and Exploitation Services System (TESS), is a multi-sector inter-agency provincial partnership of over 160 community leaders and professionals working with children and youth taken into the sex trade across Nova Scotia. TESS is the extension of groundwork laid through Canadian Women's Foundation funding from 2016 to 2021 and is now funded by the Department of Community Services until 2025.

This year is marked by significant efforts to support survivors of gender-based violence and commercial sexual exploitation (CSEC). We've advocated for policy changes, such as the potential impacts of a coercive control offence and engaged with justice professionals at conferences and workshops regarding this and more. Through our participation in industry events and networking with key partners, we've strengthened relationships and laid the groundwork for future collaborations. From securing funding for the TESS 2024 Conference to facilitating vital training sessions, our focus remains on inclusivity and supporting both survivors and those working in the field. As we move forward, we are recruiting new members, planning impactful events, and exploring crucial legislative changes like a Good Samaritan Law. Together, we will continue building a stronger, more resilient network dedicated to addressing CSEC, supporting survivors, and tackling the root causes of exploitation.

NOW IS THE TIME TO HELP THE GIRLS

Miss Glass, Secretary of the
Y. W. C. A., Was the Speak-
er at Commercial Club
Luncheon.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

IN FEBRUARY 1971, YWCA HALIFAX WAS A SIGNATORY TO A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE AMENDMENT TO THE CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA IN REGARDS TO ABORTIONS PERFORMED BY QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS. THE RESOLUTION INCLUDED:

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF NOVA SCOTIA REQUESTS THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF CANADA TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND RECOMMENDS THAT: (1) THE CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA BE AMENDED TO PERMIT ABORTION BY A QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER ON THE SOLE REQUEST OF ANY WOMAN HAS BEEN PREGNANT FOR 12 WEEKS OR LESS; AND FURTHER THAT (2) THE CRIMINAL CODE OF CANADA BE AMENDED TO PERMIT ABORTION BY A QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONER ON THE REQUEST OF A WOMAN PREGNANT FOR MORE THAN 12 WEEKS IF THE DOCTOR IS CONVINCED THAT THE CONTINUATION OF THE PREGNANCY WOULD ENDANGER THE PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF THE WOMAN..."

ABORTION WAS DECRIMINALIZED IN CANADA IN 1988. IN 2020, AN ESTIMATED 74,000 ABORTIONS IN CANADA WERE PERFORMED BY QUALIFIED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

2023/2024 WALL OF HONOUR INDUCTEES



Every year YWCA Halifax recognizes outstanding community members and organizations who have made a meaningful contribution to advancing our mission. Their efforts have made a lasting difference, and we are honoured to acknowledge and celebrate their commitment.

VICTORIA HALL SOCIETY



Founded in 1863, the Victoria Hall Society was created to serve elder women living in poverty in Halifax. In 2023/2024, the Board of Directors of the VHS gifted to YWCA Halifax their mandate and mission together with their remaining financial assets. YWCA Halifax was honoured to receive this responsibility and gift. Today, six VHS women are supported by YWCA at the Caritas residence. YWCA is committed to faithfully stewarding the VHS Board's gift to continue to serve elder women living in poverty.

The courage and dedication of the Victoria Hall Society volunteer Board of Directors is made manifest in their decision to pass the baton to the YWCA and to ensure that the proud legacy of the VHS continues long into the future.

JASON BRUNT, PRESIDENT, THE SHAW GROUP AND CLAYTON DEVELOPMENTS LTD.



Not only is Jason a brilliant business leader, he is also a devoted community champion. In summer 2023, Jason initiated a partnership between Shaw Group and the YWCA that saw the acquisition of 32 new affordable housing units owned by the YWCA in summer 2024.

Jason's ability to see partnerships, to build trust, and to "clear the clutter" were pivotal in seeing families find safe, affordable housing.

We'll be thrilled to tell you more about this exciting housing initiative in our next annual report.



DIRT ROAD CONTRACTORS, OCEAN CONTRACTORS, TOROMONT CAT MARITIMES

Have you seen the new playground at our Dartmouth Child Development Centre? It is truly a work of art! And it would not have been made possible without Dirt Road Contractors, Ocean Contractors, and Toromont Cat Maritimes going above and beyond their mandate.

Ocean Contractors did the asphalt work adding where they saw the need, such as making the child care centre doors accessible. They also made the trail extra fun for the children by painting the yellow line to make it look like a roadway.

Dirt Road contractors built our new shed that provides us with more outdoor storage than we knew we needed.

Toromont Cat Maritimes hauled away several dump truck loads of garbage and debris in preparation for the new playground. They also brought in heavy equipment to prepare the playground, leveling it out so we could install the new playground equipment. These services were an unexpected act of kindness, above what they were asked to do.

SOCIAL ACTION PLATFORM

&

PROGRAM PRIORITIES STATEMENT

At the 1969 Convention, the Y.W.C.A. of Canada prepared a National Social Action Platform.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT

THE 1969 SOCIAL ACTION PLATFORM FOR YWCA LISTS THESE PRINCIPLES:

THAT OUR ATTITUDES TOWARD EACH OTHER, WHETHER EXPRESSED IN PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, OR AS MEMBERS OF GROUPS, REFLECT AN APPRECIATION OF THE UNIQUE, SELF-DIRECTING CAPACITY OF EACH HUMAN BEING.

THAT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SOCIAL NEED RECOGNIZES THAT WE ARE PART OF BOTH THE PROBLEM AND THE SOLUTION.

THAT THE STRUCTURE AND PROGRAMMES OF OUR ORGANIZATION, ON LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS, MUST BE VIEWED AS A MEANS TO ACHIEVING SOLUTION TO HUMAN NEEDS.

THE WAY WE WORK WITH AND THROUGH POWER STRUCTURES WHICH SUPPORT AND FACILITATE SELF-DETERMINATION, SO THAT THE PEOPLE WHO ARE DIRECTLY RELATED TO PROGRAM GOALS ARE ABLE TO WORK THROUGH THEIR OWN PROBLEMS IN THEIR OWN WAY WITHOUT INTERFERENCE.

THAT WE IMMEDIATELY SEEK TO DISCOVER AND UPON DISCOVERING, REMOVE ANY OBSTACLES TO THE RECRUITMENT OF PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, AGE-GROUPS, AND VIEWPOINTS INTO ALL ASPECTS OF THE ORGANIZATION: POLICY-MAKING, ADMINISTRATION, PROGRAM, AND PARTICIPATION.

MORE THAN 150 THANK YOU'S!

**TO OUR DONORS,
PARTNERS, AND
SUPPORTERS WHO
GENEROUSLY
CONTRIBUTE AND
POWER OUR MISSION.
YOU INSPIRE US!**

Aaron Smith
Abigail Rae
Adam Somers
Affordable Housing Association
of Nova Scotia
Alan & Sheila Leard
Alana Patterson
Alanna Magennis
Alexandra Hickey
Alexandra Yip
Allison MacDougall
Alma Khalouf
Andrew & Jane Calder
Andrew McDonald
Ann Lidstone
Anonymous
Ashley Tiller
Barrinique N. Griffin
BMO
Brian Ternoway
Bruce Yeo
Camilla Quaglia
Canada Helps
Canadian Professional
Organizers

Carol Sinclair
Carolyn Crewe
Cathedral Church of All Saints,
Halifax
Charities Aid Foundation
Canada
Charles & Lori Scott
Charles P. Allen High School
Chika Chiekwe
Christ the King Parish
Christina Reid
Christopher Barrett
Community Health Boards
of Nova Scotia Health
Construction Association
of Nova Scotia
Community Foundations
of Canada
Co-operators
Community Funds
Cresco Developments Limited
Crombie REIT
Cynthia MacDonald
Daniella Sam
Deloitte
Diane Dooley
Diane Dika
Dirt Road Contractors
Dora Dorman
Eastlink
Elizabeth McKiggan
Elizabeth McIsaac
Ellen Gibling

Emera
Emily Ewer
Employment Nova Scotia
Ernst & Young
Eva Parada
Events East
Feed NS
Fellowstitch Group
Flemming Charitable
Foundation
Geno Sajko
George Bucci
Gerald Goldenberg
Gerard Tompkins
Gerrie Masters
Gillian Doucet Campbell
Grace United Church
Grafton Developments Inc.
Grant Thorton
Gregory MacQuarrie
Government of Canada:
Employment and Social
Development; Women and
Gender Equality
Government of Nova Scotia:
Communities, Culture, Tourism,
Heritage; Community Services;
Education and Early Childhood
Development; Labour, Skills,
and Education
Halifax Assistance Fund
Halifax Metro Transit
Halifax Protestant
Infant's Foundation
Halifax Regional Municipality

Halifax Youth Foundation
Hanaa Al Sharief
Haneen Al-Noman
Hayley Fox
Heather Hanson
Heather Ternoway
Home Depot Canada
Foundation
IKEA Halifax
Informa Connect -
Canadian Apartment
Investment Conference
International Association
of Machinists & Aerospace
Workers Local Lodge 2
Jacqueline Twohig
Jacqui Rostek Holder
Janet Hodgson
Janet Simmons
Janice Cruddas
Janice MacSween
Janis Catano
Jean Shaw
Jeff Britton
Jennifer Ashton
Jenny MacNeil
Joanne Bernard
Jodi Carter
John & Janette Rahey
John & Judith Day
Judi Wensel
Julia Cornish
Juliana Karlsen



YWCA | 150
HALIFAX



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

Julien R. Payne	Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation	Richard Moore	Teana Stewart
June Lumsden	Margaret L. Gourlay	Robert & Diane Price	TELUS Future Friendly Foundation
Justin West	Maria Kleronoms	Robert Tomkins	The Christina and Hedley G. Ivany Foundation
Karen Arthur	Mariana Carrera	Ronald Ternoway	The Community Foundation of Nova Scotia
Karen Hutt	Matthew Townsend	Rosanne Gillis-Roy	The Fitness Room
Karen Oldfield	McInnes Cooper	Sacred Heart School of Halifax	The Middleton Group
Kate Shewan	Mental Health Foundation of NS	Sally Robertson	The Practice
Kathryn Ternoway	Michael & Suellen Bradfield	Sara Phinney	Theresa Forgeron
KBRS	Michelle Forbes	Sarah Chisholm	Toromont Cat Maritimes
Kelly Taylor	Miia Suokonautio	Sarah von Riedemann	Trampoline Branding
Kendra Efthimiopoulos	Nassim Ghosn	Scotiabank	Trisura
Kenneth Dolson	National Public Relations	Shannex	United Way Halifax
Killam Apartment REIT	Nicole Carruthers	Shannon Kerr	Vera Nova
Kinfix Health and Fitness	Nikki MacLeod	Sharon Ishimwe	Wanda Hill
Laura Elliott-Allan	Nikki Martin	Shawn Christianson	Women's Infrastructure Network Canada
Lavada Whidden	Nourish Nova Scotia	Sherry Donovan	
Leah Mark	Nova Scotia Advisory Committee on the Status of Women	Sobey's	
Leora Sherwood	Nova Scotia Community Foundation	Sonya Arnold	
Leslie Bishop	Ocean Contactors	Sonya Fraser	
Linda Roberts	O. E. Smith Trust	Sophia Roy	
Lindsay Robinson	Frank Orlando Orlando Media Company	St. James Anglican Church, Armdale	
Lindsay Ternoway	Patricia Pearce	St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Women's League	
Living Stone	Patrick & Sylvia Branton	Sterling Hotel Limited	
Liz Struijf - Mandishora	Purposeful Place - Caroline Flinn	Steve Carr	
Lumbermart	Rachel Rogers	Stewart McKelvey	
Lume Leadership	RBC	Sumaya El-falah	
Lynn Coveyduck	Rhonda Burke	Sunny Russell	
Mantek Kaura		Susan Godwin	
Manulife		Sylvia Parris Drummond	
Marakesh MacLauchlan			

Thank you, to each of you, for making a difference through your time, skills, and finances. Your generosity empowers our mission. We have done our best to include everyone who contributed to YWCA Halifax between April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024.

We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact **Gillian at communications@ywcahalifax.com if we have made an error.**

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



The YWCA Halifax is committed to wisely managing the resources at our disposal. These resources are not our own—they have been entrusted to us through our partners, supporters, and donors, and we are responsible for managing them in a way that brings maximum benefit to the people we serve.

Inviting accountability through financial transparency is an important part of our resource management. We follow best practices by sharing our financial statements and donation breakdowns through our financial statements which can be found here at www.ywcahalifax.com/annual-reports/

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

	APRIL 1 ST 2023 TO MARCH 31 ST 2024	APRIL 1 ST 2022 TO MARCH 31 ST 2023
Revenues	11,174,641	8,959,689
Expenditures	11,150,192	8,641,803
Excess of revenues over expenditures	24,449	317,886
Investments	254,558	35,037
Total net excess (deficit) of revenues over expenditure	279,007	346,689

REVENUES BREAKDOWN

	APRIL 1 ST 2023 TO MARCH 31 ST 2024	APRIL 1 ST 2022 TO MARCH 31 ST 2023
Government funding and grants	7,511,466	5,815,757
Program fees and earned revenue	2,137,278	1,472,796
Foundations and charities	1,144,419	979,076
Donations and bequests	155,541	406,926
Miscellaneous	225,937	285,134

EXPENSE BREAKDOWN

	APRIL 1 ST 2023 TO MARCH 31 ST 2024	APRIL 1 ST 2022 TO MARCH 31 ST 2023
Salaries	6,521,072	4,902,046
Facilities	719,689	689,616
Program expenses	3,367,780	2,595,497
Operational	356,521	283,123
Amortization of Capital Assets	185,130	174,521



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

OUR FANTASTIC STAFF TEAM

AT MARCH 31, 2024

Aarti Sharma
 Abigail Cooper
 Abigail MacPherson
 Abigail Price
 Abimbola Shoboiki
 Adebukola Shogbamu
 Afia Twumasiwaa-Ankrah Osei
 Ameerah Sayer
 Amy Jones
 Angela Moore
 Ashley Tiller
 Belinda LeBlanc
 Blaine Johnston
 Brittany Macdonell
 Caira Mohamed
 Camila Bermudez-Pineros
 Candice Grant
 Cassandra Simourd
 Cassandra Sundin
 Cassidy Pulsifer
 Catherine Burgers-Lamontagne
 Chinwe Ngei
 Crystal Anne MacMillan
 Dametre Samuels
 Danielle Walsh
 Danielle Hodges
 Debra Perry
 Devin West
 Dian Rose Campbell
 Edgar Adda
 Em Isbill
 Erin Manning
 Faith Scanlan
 Fakiha Nishat
 Gilda Desroches
 Gillian Doucet Campbell
 Gregory Mombourquette
 Hana Arada

Hannah Martell
 Hannah Rose MacDonald
 Hayley Walker
 Heidi Cleary
 Heloise Muller-Beaute
 Holly Worden
 Hyun-Jee Lee
 Ikram Siddiqui
 Jaiah Howe
 James Cooke
 Jan Murphy
 Jane Miller
 Jeanna Wagner
 Jennifer Ells
 Jenny MacNeil
 Jessica Bailey
 Jessica Leblanc
 Jillian Monique Holloway
 Juan Montoya
 Juliet Muokwe
 Junessa Gray
 Justine Alchorn
 Karen Paquette
 Katherine Preeper
 Kayla Thomson
 Kelly Bryan
 Krista Dunn
 Kyra Gilbert
 Laura Sarmiento Salazar
 Laura Swaine
 Lauryn Mae Helen Guest-Harris
 Liesl Mulholland
 Mallory Guthro
 Manishkumar Shinde
 Margaret Morden
 Maryam Lawal
 Michelle Chisholm
 Michelle Lamothe

Miia Suokonautio
 Monique Walsh
 Morgane De Lacey Searight Evans
 Nikita VanVessem
 Odessa Shea
 Olena Lokutsovskva
 Olha Astashova
 Oluwakemi Abdul
 Oluwaranti Keita-Ozieh
 Peyton Sutherland
 Phonia Smith Madourie
 Rhina Dobbin
 Roxanne Auger
 Ruth Dakoru
 Sabrina Sharmin
 Sam Vatcher
 Sandra Pineda
 Sarah Eyland
 Satinderjit Kaur
 Sean Bisson
 Shannon Steele
 Shelly Ann Brown
 Shernisha Colley
 Sophie Fleming
 Sorelle Djitieu
 Stacie Smith
 Susan MacDonald
 Tamara Jennex
 Taylor Leblanc
 Temitope Abiagom
 Thauana Ribeiro deMorais
 Theresa Isemin
 Theresa Yuill
 Trena Slaunwhite-Gallant
 Victoria Lafford
 Wanda Hill
 Wendy Balfour
 Yuna Lee



YWCA | 150
 HALIFAX



YWCA HALIFAX
 150 YEARS STRONG
 EMPOWERING CHANGE,
 ENRICHING LIVES



STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

OUR VISION

We envision a more equitable world in which women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender diverse people feel a strong sense of belonging and are empowered to live their lives fully and with dignity.

OUR MISSION

Rooted in our community, we support and provide a strong voice for women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender diverse people and their families and create opportunities for them to thrive.

OUR VALUES

Equity – Self-determination –
Freedom of Choice – Security –
Collaboration – Responsiveness
– Sustainability



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

BUILDING TOMORROW'S YWCA HALIFAX - OUR 2025-2030 STRATEGIC PLAN



Over the past year, the YWCA Halifax Board and Leadership Team have been engaged in a strategic planning process. We're excited to share with you our priorities for the next five years.

Together with these goals are a series of objectives and a detailed action plan. We look forward to reporting back to our community next year on our progress.

PRIORITY 1: EXCELLENCE IN PROGRAMMING

Women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender diverse people in the communities we serve feel a strong sense of belonging and are empowered to live their lives fully and with dignity.

Programming reflects the organization's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

PRIORITY 4: OPERATIONAL SYSTEMS AND POLICIES

Operational systems and policies enable efficient and effective work.

Operational systems and policies reflect the organization's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

PRIORITY 2: FINANCIAL STRENGTH

Sufficient funds to achieve objectives.

Funds are sufficiently diversified such that the loss of particular revenue sources is manageable.

Assets accumulate over time.

Approach to financial management reflects the organization's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

PRIORITY 5: EXCELLENCE IN GOVERNANCE

Board is effective and contributes positively to the organization.

Governance reflects the organization's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

PRIORITY 3: STAFF AND WORKPLACE CULTURE

Workplace culture is one of diversity, equity, empowerment, and belonging.

Known as an employer that supports and values its employees.

A champion of fair compensation and pay equity.

Workplace culture reflects the organization's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES



YWCA
HALIFAX

150



YWCA HALIFAX
150 YEARS STRONG
EMPOWERING CHANGE,
ENRICHING LIVES

358 HERRING COVE ROAD, HALIFAX NS, B3R 1V8
902.423.6162 WWW.YWCAHALIFAX.COM

FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT SANDRA PINEDA (SHE/HER),
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT AT S.PINEDA@YWCAHALIFAX.COM

REGISTERED NAME: YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF HALIFAX
CHARITY NO: 108229881RR0001

DONATE AT YWCAHALIFAX.COM/HOW-TO-HELP/DONATE



orlando
media

YWCA HALIFAX WOULD LIKE TO THANK FRANK ORLANDO OF
ORLANDO MEDIA COMPANY FOR DESIGNING OUR 150 YEAR CELEBRATION
BRANDING AND THE OTHER CREATIVE TASKS HE PROVIDES.