



YWCA BANFF PRESIDENT JOINS NATIONAL BOARD

Susan Kennard from Banff will serve on YWCA Canada Board of Directors.

June 30, 2016 – Banff, AB – YWCA Banff is proud to announce the appointment of Susan Kennard to YWCA Canada’s national Board of Directors effective June 2016. As outgoing president of the local YWCA, Kennard is the first Bow Valley resident to join the YWCA Canada Board.

“Susan has been a driving force on the local YWCA Board for eight years and her appointment to the national Board is a testament to her contribution as well as her commitment and capacity to strategically address issues facing women and girls at a national and global level,” said YWCA CEO Connie MacDonald. “This is a great achievement for Susan and our organization and we are all immensely proud and grateful for her continued leadership.”

Kennard joined the Banff Board in 2008 and has been Board president since 2013. Susan will be remaining on the Banff Board for one more year in the role of past president.

“During my tenure with YWCA Banff, I’ve had the opportunity to work with our local Board of Directors and CEO to renew our organization’s relevance to and relationship with the community. It has been particularly rewarding to see how stakeholders in and beyond the Bow Valley have embraced this process of renewal on many levels,” Kennard said.

As a Board member of YWCA Canada, Kennard will have the opportunity to contribute further to the national and international movement and share information and best practices directly with the YWCA team in the Bow Valley.

“YWCA Canada has provided strategic advice and opportunities to participate in national and international meetings focused on the advancement of human rights and social justice for women and girls,” Kennard said. “Last fall I had the good fortune to be appointed to the Canadian delegation attending the YWCA World Council Meetings in Thailand and was able to learn more about the impact the YWCA has on the 25 million women who are involved in our organization.”

Kennard also represented YWCA Canada as a delegate to the 57th and 59th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in 2013 and 2015.

Kennard has worked for Parks Canada since 2010 where she manages the program renewal for national historic sites and cultural resources. From 1997-2009 she worked at The Banff Centre, during her last 5 years as the director and executive producer of the Banff New Media Institute. Kennard previously worked as a television and radio producer for national and international media companies. In 2005, she completed a Master’s degree in Communication for Development from the University of Malmö, Sweden. She also has a B.A from the University of Regina and a Graduate degree in Communication Studies from Concordia University in

Montreal.

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About YWCA Canada

YWCA Canada is the country's oldest and largest women's multi-service organization. With 32 Member Associations operating in more than 400 districts and communities across the country, it reaches out to over 400,000 women and girls.

YWCA is the largest national provider of shelter serving 25,000 women, children and teen girls including 6,000 fleeing domestic violence each year. It is also the largest provider of literacy, life skills, employment and counselling programs in the country, and the second largest provider of childcare services.

YWCA Canada is a member association of the World YWCA which unites 25 million women and girls worldwide and spans 125 countries.

About YWCA Banff

YWCA Banff is a community-based, social profit organization with over 100 years of experience in Banff and the Bow Valley. Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, YWCA empowers women, girls and the community through leadership development, advocacy, and provision of relevant programming and services.

In pursuit of this mission YWCA Banff focuses on the following priorities:

- Respect for the human rights of women and girls.
- Advancing the leadership development of women and girls.
- Provide and advocate for suitable emergency and transitional housing, and permanent affordable housing.
- A sustainable community-based organization.

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