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Registered Charity Number:

896331485RR0001

## **YWCA SECURES FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING PROJECT**

*The Courtyard Project will add 33 affordable housing units on YWCA Banff property.*

For release on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 in Banff, Alberta.

YWCA Banff is pleased to announce a major milestone in the funding of its Courtyard Project, receiving both federal and provincial contributions for its proposed housing units.

Cameron Westhead, MLA for Banff-Cochrane, representing Lori Sigurdson, Minister of Alberta Seniors and Housing, announced the provincial government's significant contribution of \$2.6 million for the sustainable housing complex.

The federal government through the National Housing Strategy's Affordable Housing Innovation Fund is also providing YWCA Banff with a major contribution. The Honourable Kent Hehr, Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, made a significant commitment of \$1.35 million to the Courtyard Project.

The overall cost of the Courtyard Project is estimated to be just under \$9 million. YWCA Banff will cover 20% of the total cost with a contribution of land for the project.

"We are just delighted at the financial investments of both the federal and provincial governments are making for the Courtyard Project," said Connie MacDonald, CEO of YWCA Banff, "It's an investment on so many levels, for the town of Banff, our environmental commitment to Banff National Park and of course the families and individuals who are unable to find suitable housing."

The new funding by the Provincial and Federal governments will be used to build housing for residents who face barriers to finding suitable accommodation. The Courtyard Project will bring in families with multi-room housing units, ranging from studio to four-bedroom apartments. The Courtyard will be ideal for women, new and extended families, individuals, and people with accessibility challenges.

## **About the YWCA**

YWCA Banff is a community-based, social profit organization with over 100 years of experience in the Bow Valley. Governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, YWCA shapes a safe, inclusive community that empowers women and girls.

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

- Providing a continuum of services and programs that activate our community to end gender-based violence
- Establishing a spectrum of sustainable housing solutions with a focus on women
- Advancing the rights of women and girls through leadership development, community awareness, training, and advocacy
- Building a sustainable organization respected for exceptional people and employment practices including: financial stability; ongoing social and community investment; and wisest operational practices

## **Media Contact**

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