

THE BRIDGE

CREATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



2018 FALL REVIEW

Hello friends,

This fall has been a very productive time for the YWCA and I wanted take this opportunity to reflect on a few exceptional events that have taken place.

As many of you heard through the media, our sustainable housing Courtyard Project received two significant infusions of funding in October - \$1.35 million from the Federal National Housing Strategy Innovation Fund and \$2.6 million from the Government of Alberta! We are so pleased with both of these contributions and along with our land, have approximately 70% of our total budget in place.

In October, over 70 people came together in our first public consultation and design lab for the Bow Valley Higher Ground Project. The session provided an opportunity to share research and seek input from the community.

Last week, I was in Ottawa attending YWCA Day on Parliament Hill. Joining 65 YWCA colleagues from across Canada, collectively we participated in 75 meetings and were acknowledged four times in Question Period. As part of our national strategy, I met with a number of government leaders including the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children & Social Development and the Minister responsible for CMHC, to talk about the importance of investing in women's economic security, including housing, training and education, childcare and gender quality.

Thank-you for your on-going interest in the YWCA.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie".

Connie MacDonald
CEO YWCA Banff



Courtyard Project reaches major milestone in funding

YWCA Banff is pleased to announce two substantial contributions to its proposed affordable housing complex. Both provincial and federal governments made a funding announcement on October 23rd 2018, in-person on the future site of Courtyard Project. Our MLA Cameron Westhead, presented a cheque of \$2.6 million from the provincial government and the Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs, committed \$1.35 million from the federal government through the National Housing Strategy's Affordable Housing Innovation Fund. The overall cost of the Courtyard Project is estimated to be just under \$9 million. YWCA 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 will support 33 housing units for residents who face barriers to finding suitable accommodation including women, new and extended families, individuals, and people with accessibility challenges.

[Learn more about YWCA Banff's Courtyard Project.](#)



Bow Valley men take training to prevent violence against women

In early October, the YWCA hosted Leading Change, a gender-based violence prevention training program created by the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) and funded by the Alberta Status of Women.

The goal of Leading Change is to increase participants' knowledge of issues surrounding domestic and sexual violence, and to empower them with tools to become allies who speak out against violence and make informed decisions when witnessing sexism, homophobia and violence in their day to day lives. Men from throughout the Bow Valley volunteered their time to attend the three-day training.

[Find out more about the Leading Change program.](#)

ENGAGING MEN AS ALLIES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018 | 7PM - 9PM
WHYTE MUSEUM OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

COMMEMORATING CANADA'S DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
AND ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

RED ROSE EVENING: ENGAGING MEN AS ALLIES
Commemorating Canada's day of remembrance
and action on violence against women

In order to end violence & discrimination against women & girls, men & boys must be part of the solution. How do we spark individual & collective transformations among men & boys that will empower them to become successful allies against violence? Please join YWCA Banff for a compelling panel discussion with recent participants from the Leading Change program, and moderator Lana Wells from [Shift: The Project to End Domestic Violence](#).

WHAT: RED ROSE EVENING: ENGAGING MEN AS ALLIES

WHEN: THURSDAY, DEC. 6

TIME: 7 TO 9PM

WHERE: WHYTE MUSEUM OF THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, 111 BEAR STREET, BANFF

TICKETS: [Engaging Men as Allies Tickets](#)



Power of Being a Girl is a Success!

As part of YWCA Banff's commitment to violence prevention initiatives for girls and young women, Power of Being a Girl™ (PBG) program is a signature violence-prevention conference for girls that responds to local community needs and relies on girls' leadership in its planning and organization. The second annual PBG Teen took place on Saturday, October 20th. We explored gender stereotypes, learned about creative mindful journaling and how it can be used for self care, walked and talked about healthy relationships and had the chance to connect with some inspiring female leaders in our community.

Stay tuned for an update from our next Power of Being A Girl conference, for girls in grades 4, 5 and 6, taking place on Saturday, November 17.

[Learn more about Power of Being A Girl.](#)



Community consultation for Higher Ground project in Canmore

YWCA Banff hosted a gathering of community members on September 25th, 2018 to share research information and seek insights on the Bow Valley Higher Ground Project. The core of the social wellness hub will be a family emergency shelter, with wrap-around services and enable a holistic approach to violence prevention. The Project will leverage the unique expertise of the YWCA, other local agencies and the broader network of service providers throughout Alberta in order to optimize the well-being of Bow Valley residents.

Thanks to the creativity and commitment of those who participated in the consultation, the YWCA is confident in its capacity to develop a Hub that will foster long-term wellness for all Bow Valley residents.

[More information on the Bow Valley Higher Ground Project](#)

VINEart
GALA & AUCTION



MARCH 16, 2019
FAIRMONT BANFF SPRINGS

Benefitting the Bow Valley Women's Emergency Shelter & Transitional Housing Program and the Bow Valley Higher Ground Project

We're happy to share that the fifth annual VINEart Gala Auction is scheduled for
March 16, 2019
at the Fairmont Banff Springs.

VINEart Gala will feature an elegant evening of fine dining, entertainment, and an auction of exceptional art and wine experiences. All proceeds will benefit the Bow Valley Women's Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Program and the Bow Valley Higher Ground Project.

Please join us.
Tickets go on sale December 1st.

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