

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bow Valley Women of Distinction Awards

## 2023 NOMINATION PACKAGE

Each year, YWCA Banff presents Women of Distinction Awards to outstanding women from the Bow Valley who have made a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls in the Bow Valley and beyond. Any self-identified woman who meets the award category criteria is eligible for nomination.

YWCA Banff is proud to host these awards, recognizing local women who through their own initiative, ability and effort have demonstrated exemplary achievement in their fields. The awards recognize women who are outstanding role models and have made substantial contributions to the fabric of our community in unique ways.

### Key Dates

- *Nomination Deadline: March 20, 2023*
- *Awards presented at Change Makers event: May 11, 2023*

### Submissions

**Send by email: [marketing@ywcabanff.ca](mailto:marketing@ywcabanff.ca)**

- MUST BE RECEIVED BY 11:59 PM ON March 20, 2023
- Late submissions will not be considered
- Incomplete submissions will not be considered
- Once submitted, nomination packages cannot be edited or altered

Within this nomination packet, you'll find important information about the nomination criteria, selection criteria, and selection process, along with a Women of Distinction nomination form. Please read the information in this packet carefully to ensure your nominee is properly qualified, and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. You'll find contact information at the end of the nomination form.

Thank you for investing your time to nominate a Bow Valley woman who you feel exemplifies the qualities of a Woman of Distinction.

Sincerely,



Ebony Rempel  
Chief Executive Officer  
YWCA Banff

## 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Bow Valley Women of Distinction Awards

# 2023 NOMINATION FORM & GUIDELINES

Nominate an outstanding woman in our community who has made a lasting difference in the lives of women and girls in the Bow Valley and beyond.

The nominee has through her own initiative, ability and effort demonstrated exemplary achievement in her professional or personal life. She is a role model, a leader, and an inspiration to others. She directs her energies to the well-being of people in her life and her community.

She responds to individual and societal needs with dedication, compassion and courage. She is helping to build a strong community by being an advocate and a change-maker.

She has made substantial contributions to the social fabric of communities here and beyond in unique ways. The contributions she makes provide significant and lasting benefit to the lives of women and girls.

Whether trailblazer in her field or young woman on the rise, she is a pathfinder, bringing forth the key issues facing women and girls today. Through her commitment to social change, she will leave a lasting legacy for future generations.

### Nominator Qualifications

- The nominator can be any individual who is interested in nominating an eligible nominee
- The nominator must fully complete the Nomination Form and submit it, along with the support material by 11:59 pm on March 20, 2023
- Current members of the Bow Valley Women of Distinction Awards selection committee are not eligible to submit nominations
- Multiple nominations from the same nominator are allowed

### Nominee Eligibility

#### Nominees must:

- Be a role model, pioneer or outstanding achiever residing in the Bow Valley - including the communities of Banff, Canmore, Lake Louise, Exshaw, Kananaskis and Mini Thni
- Age restrictions: Young Women's Leadership – Nominees must be 16 years+. Community Champion & Innovation – Nominees must be 18 years+
- Support the mission and values of YWCA Banff
- Consent to nomination
- Be available to, or have a representative, attend the awards presentation in May 2022 (Date TBC)

#### In addition:

- We welcome and encourage inclusive and diverse nominations with respect to nominees' age, nationality, residency status in Canada, and career path
- Previous nominees may be re-nominated

- Previous award recipients; current YWCA Banff employees and Board members; and current Bow Valley Women of Distinction selection committee members are ineligible to be nominated
- Post-humous nominations cannot be accepted

## Selection Process

The selection committee is comprised of YWCA Board members and employees, Women of Distinction alumnae and community members. The committee will review all submissions against nomination criteria and guidelines. The committee may contact nominators to confirm information or ask follow-up questions.

Three award recipients will be selected and announced in late April to early May 2023.

**Important!** If selected as a YWCA Woman of Distinction, the recipient **MUST** agree to be part of all media promotions, including local media, promotional videos and be acknowledged on the YWCA Banff website. Recipients will also be asked to deliver a short acceptance speech at the 2023 Women of Distinction Awards ceremony on May 11, 2023.

## Nomination Categories

### Community Champion

This award honors a woman who has initiated meaningful change within the local community, dedicating her own time and resources to champion her cause. She is a visionary trailblazer, a source of strength for her community, and has improved and enriched the lives of others. She has made a significant and sustained difference in the Bow Valley, and is an influential leader through paid work and/or volunteerism in the private, public, or not-for-profit sector.

### Innovation

This award honors a woman who boldly embraces new, original ideas and pursues creative ways of making a difference in the business or non-profit sector, or through volunteerism. She is a leader who challenges and motivates others to think outside of the box and explore cutting-edge solutions to improving their surroundings, facilitating change, and creating opportunities whenever possible. She may be a founder, owner, leader or other innovator, creating and implementing innovative programs, practices, partnerships, policies or activities that influence social good and positive change for our community.

### Young Women's Leadership

This award recognizes an emerging leader aged 16 - 30, who is an inspirational role model in their career, achievements, or community building roles. She has made a significant difference in the Bow Valley through her commitment to a cause or pursuit of a personal dream while showing perseverance, innovation and a keen understanding of community issues. She inspires others to follow her example, and sets the pace for others to walk alongside her. She is a leader who will continue to inspire us for years to come.

## 1 | Nominator Information (please type or print clearly)

### Your information (please complete):

First & Last Name

Address

Phone

Email (*this is our primary form of contact*)

Would you like to receive occasional email updates about the YWCA Banff?      Yes      No

## 2 | Nominee Information

### Who are you nominating? (please complete):

First & Last Name

Place of residence

For Young Women's Leadership Award – Age

Phone

Email

## 3 | Nomination Questionnaire

*Answer the following questions about the nominee to demonstrate how she meets or exceeds the awards criteria.*

*Submissions are limited to the space provided. We recommend you read through the questions in advance and plan your responses to make best use of the space provided. Bullet points are recommended.*

1. Describe three characteristics of the nominee that make her an ideal candidate for the Woman of Distinction Award.

2. How is the nominee, through her personal or professional accomplishments, an inspiration to you?

3. How does the nominee demonstrate a commitment to serving the community?

4. Share one or two examples of key projects/initiatives the nominee has been involved with that demonstrate a commitment to serving the community.

5. How has the nominee's community engagement and leadership had a lasting impact on the lives of women and girls?

**Optional:** nominators may include a one-page letter of introduction and a maximum of two additional letters of support.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the nomination form, or if you require support making your submission.

**Please Note:** the selection committee relies upon the nominators to provide a clear, detailed submission to help them get to know the outstanding qualities of the nominee. The selection committee may contact you with follow up questions if the need arises.

#### 4 | Nomination Submission & Deadline

**Please submit your nomination to:**

[Marketing@ywcabanff.ca](mailto:Marketing@ywcabanff.ca) at YWCA Banff via email or in person by **March 20, 2023**.