



YMCA of Yarmouth
275 Main Street, PO Box 86
Yarmouth, NS B5A 4B1
(902) 742-7181
www.ymcayarmouth.net

Wednesday February 19, 2020

A Message from Board Chair, Chris Brown

As a valued member of our Y community, I wanted to provide you with a brief update on the financial health of our organization, various initiatives underway and several upcoming staffing changes.

For the past several years, the YMCA has experienced significant financial challenges due to several factors including reduced lottery revenue, low funding levels and increased costs associated with an aging infrastructure.

The Board of Directors and Management Team have been working diligently to stabilize this situation. In recent months, we have initiated a fundraising campaign, improved lottery revenue, increased funding from community partners and entered into important discussions with municipal leaders regarding our long-term viability.

Recognizing that any new development at the Mariner's Centre is likely years away, we are evaluating the option to re-invest in our current YMCA facility.

To support this process, our YMCA has received a grant from the Tri-County Municipal units to fully fund a Building Condition Assessment. The assessment will evaluate the condition of our facility and building systems, and serve as an important planning tool. The results of this study will guide future decision making as we work toward identifying a sustainable operating model for our YMCA. I'd like to thank our municipal partners for their commitment to this important work!

I would also like to provide an update on several staffing changes:

CEO Leadership Transition

For the past several years, the YMCA of Yarmouth has benefited from a shared leadership model with the **YMCA of Southwest Nova Scotia**. Through this agreement, our association has had access to an experienced Chief Executive Officer and a Financial Services professional.

Due to changing priorities, The YMCA of Southwest Nova Scotia has indicated that this agreement will not be renewed. As a result, **Yvonne Smith** will conclude her role as CEO at the YMCA of Yarmouth effective March 2, 2020.

To ensure a strong leadership transition, Yvonne will continue to support our YMCA as a **Senior Consultant** over the next few months and **Jill Sutherland** will continue to provide financial services support as required.



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Both Jill and Yvonne have guided our Y through very turbulent times with exceptional leadership and insight. The financial information provided to the board was timely, accurate and relevant. I am confident our Y would not be open today if it were not for the stewardship, hard work, and dedication of these two individuals.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, please join me in thanking Yvonne and Jill for their leadership and commitment to the YMCA of Yarmouth.

I would also like to thank the Board of Directors at YMCA of Southwest Nova Scotia for their ongoing support and commitment to building strong, healthy YMCAs throughout our region.

As a result of these changes, our YMCA will be looking to transition to a locally based administration in the upcoming months. Our board will explore various leadership models including partnerships with other Yarmouth-based community organizations.

To ensure a successful transition period, we have been working closely with YMCA Canada and the YMCA Atlantic Regional Development Centre to identify an experienced YMCA leader who can provide our association with interim support.

Based on these discussions, the Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of **Darryl McKenzie** as **Interim Chief Executive Officer**, effective March 2, 2020.

In addition to providing overall leadership to our YMCA, Darryl will be working with our board to analyze current operations with a focus on the long-term viability of our organization. This analysis will include exploring community partnership opportunities, examining new funding models, and assessing capital investment requirements. This is a short-term assignment and we anticipate Darryl will be working with us until late April.

A seasoned leader, Darryl has over 20 years of progressive management experience in YMCAs across Canada. Most recently, he completed 2 interim leadership assignments at YMCAs in Saskatchewan. Prior to this, Darryl served as CEO at the YMCA of Oakville, where he led a complex organization including an 8,000-member recreation facility, 41 child care centres, four summer camp locations, and multiple community program and outreach initiatives.

As Vice-President at the Toronto 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, Darryl mobilized the team to recruit close to 23,000 volunteers—the largest call for volunteers in Canadian peacetime.

Darryl's background in executive leadership is backed by an MBA from Queen's University and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Wilfrid Laurier University. Passionate about community service, he has enhanced his education with non-profit strategic management studies at Harvard University.

Please join me in welcoming Darryl McKenzie to the YMCA of Yarmouth!



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Centre Manager Leadership Transition

Aimee Daigle our current **Centre Manager** will be leaving the YMCA of Yarmouth effective Friday February 21st to pursue a new leadership opportunity with the YMCA of Southwest Nova Scotia.

Aimee was a tremendous asset to our association who excelled at building meaningful relationships with staff and members and fostered a true sense of teamwork and collaboration. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank-you Aimee for always ensuring our YMCA is a safe, friendly, and welcoming space for everyone in our community!

To ensure our YMCA maintains a strong focus on operations, **Ron Riddell** has been appointed as **Interim General Manager** effective March 9, 2020. Ron will be working with our staff to manage daily operations and will report directly to Darryl McKenzie, Interim CEO.

Ron has worked for the YMCA for over 30 years and currently serves as Regional General Manager at **YMCA of Central East Ontario**. Prior to this, Ron spent 19 years with the National Capital Region YMCA-YWCA.

A graduate of Human Kinetics from the University of Ottawa, Ron also served as a Professor in the Fitness and Health Promotion program at Algonquin College. He is married with 2 daughters in university and is a permanent resident of Prince Edward County, Ontario.

Thank-you to the YMCA of Central East Ontario for enabling Ron to join us for this short-term assignment. We anticipate Ron will be on the ground in Yarmouth for the next 12 weeks.

Please join me in welcoming Ron to our YMCA family!

It's been a busy time for our YMCA, but be assured we are doing all things possible to ensure our organization is well positioned for the future.

I will continue to provide regular updates on the YMCA's progress as we move through this period of organizational transition and renewal. In the meantime, I encourage you to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns related to today's announcement at chris.brown@nshealth.ca.

Thank-you for your ongoing commitment to our YMCA.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown

Chris Brown
Chair, Board of Directors
YMCA of Yarmouth