



YMCA Ontario

Growing a Healthy Ontario
YMCAs in Ontario Pre-Budget Submission 2017

January 31, 2017

*Building healthy
communities*

Dear Minister Sousa,

The YMCA has a longstanding history of service in Ontario that spans over 160 years; we are at the centre of communities helping people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities live engaging and healthy lives. There are 21 YMCA associations operating programs and services all over Ontario – from Timmins to Haliburton to Toronto. Collectively, we connect with over 1.4 million people in 125 communities.

Our community-driven programs and services address complex health and social needs, these include: child care; camps; community programs; education and training; employment services; global initiatives; health, fitness and aquatics; and newcomer services.

Research points to social isolation as a key determinant of health and well-being. The YMCA is a trusted and valued community anchor where all feel welcome. Thanks to our financial assistance program, finances are not a barrier to participation. The work that we do every day benefits residents of Ontario by helping people achieve positive economic, social and personal outcomes. Our mission and vision supports the Government of Ontario in reaching important public policy objectives. The YMCA values being a part of Ontario's significant and strong not-for-profit sector and commends the Ontario Non-profit Network for the timely recommendations in their pre-budget submission.

In budget 2017, the YMCA calls on the Government to further invest in YMCA Ontario to support the wellbeing of Ontarians and a healthy and prosperous province. We know that these recommendations offer ways in which the province can act to create better conditions for residents of Ontario through supporting the immense capability of the YMCA.

Sincerely,

Medhat Mahdy



President and Chief Executive Officer, YMCA of Greater Toronto
President, YMCA Ontario

YMCA key budget recommendations

- 1** Prioritize recreational infrastructure in the design of social infrastructure programs
- 2** Invest \$58,669,875 in 5 YMCA Centre of Community projects
- 3** Enhance investments in child care to address affordability
- 4** Expand experiential learning through partnerships with the YMCA
- 5** Increase funding for newcomer programs and services to support successful integration
- 6** Provide hydro relief for charities and non-for-profits

I. Recreational infrastructure

In 2016, we witnessed unprecedented commitments to social infrastructure from the federal government that will be executed through the leadership of the provinces. Investments in the conditions and space that cultivate physical, social and mental well-being support a healthy workforce, inclusive growth and building Ontario up for everyone. The YMCA greatly appreciates the ongoing support of the Government of Ontario which has allowed us to renew our Centres of Community. Our centres are examples of social infrastructure that reduce health care costs, create jobs and make all communities more liveable.

The Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act emphasizes the importance of taking a long-term view of the needs of Ontarians in health and education when making infrastructure funding decisions. Unfortunately, there is not a clear and open process for applying for social infrastructure funding in Ontario for facilities operated and owned by the charitable and not-for-profit sector. We urge the province to ensure that infrastructure operated and owned by not-for-profit organizations is eligible for social infrastructure funding, supporting the success and viability of the buildings that provide essential services to communities. These services include child care, employment services, fitness facilities, newcomer services and places to connect. We understand the province is working with federal counterparts to develop the parameters of social infrastructure spending; we urge the province to ensure that there is:

1. A stream for recreational infrastructure, a key component of social infrastructure
2. A specific allocation of social infrastructure resources available to the charitable and not-for-profit sector.

In addition, there are 5 new YMCA Centres of Community on the horizon that offer smart opportunities for Government investment; these facilities will provide an incredible amount of public benefit, keeping our communities active, engaged and healthy. The YMCA leverages government funding with existing assets and philanthropic support to achieve optimal results. The YMCA recommends:

3. An investment of \$58,669,875 in 5 YMCA Centre of Community projects (see attached annexes for project proposals)

II. Early years and child care

The YMCA is involved in the majority of services that make up the continuum of care in early years and child care including: child care, child and family programs, before-and-after school programs, recreation, camps and child minding. Our dedicated team of qualified educators and staff members work with children every day, ensuring that they learn and play in a healthy and safe environment.

In 2016 the Ontario government made important progress and commitments regarding early years and child care; most recently with the announcement of 100 000 additional child care spaces over the next

five years. YMCAs' across Ontario are excited about the possibilities for more children and families to have access to this vital service. At the same time, we recognize that for many families child care will remain inaccessible due to prohibitive costs. Ontario is home to the highest median infant fees in the country at \$19,788 a year.¹ These high costs prevent women from full participation in the labour force.

The first recommendation from the Gender Wage Gap Strategy Steering Committee was for the government to immediately commit to developing an early child care system within a defined timeframe. The report noted that the system should provide care that is: high quality, affordable, accessible, publicly funded and geared to income, with sufficient spaces to meet the needs of Ontario families. High quality child care that is affordable, accessible and responsive not only frees up caregivers to participate in the workforce but importantly contributes to healthy child development. The benefits of child care are both immediate and long-term as we know that children with positive early childhood educations are more likely to have a highly-skilled job and better lifelong outcomes.² The YMCA recommends:

4. The Government of Ontario continue to invest in the early years and child care with a focus on systemic change to make child care more affordable for families. Increasing the amount of family adjusted net income eligible for subsidy would make room for more middle class families to access financial support. Middle class families that do not qualify for subsidy are forced to choose child care that is substandard or make the difficult choice of not returning to the workforce.

III. Youth success

Issues related to belonging and social inclusion are coming to the forefront and for over 160 years these have been key components of our mission – to provide children, teens and young adults with activities and space to make connections and to find a place to belong. The YMCA has always supported youth in their transitions to adulthood. Our associations have participated in a number of consultative sessions across the province exploring student well-being in addition to well-being in the middle years.

The YMCA of Greater Toronto has two designated centres that provide support for youth: YMCA Sprott House and Vanauley Street YMCA Centre. Vanauley Street offers pre-employment and employment programs, drop-in programs, outreach programs and a host of other services designed to meet the needs of at-risk youth and those experiencing homelessness.

All youth deserve the support to nourish their potential – whether they are youth experiencing homelessness, youth experiencing barriers to the workforce or youth going through transformative

¹ Macdonald, D., & Friendly, M. (2016). *A Growing Concern 2016 Child Care Fees in Canada's Biggest Cities*. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

² Ministry of Education. (2016, November 22). *Ministry of Education*. Retrieved December 21, 2016, from Building a Better Future: A discussion paper for transforming early years and child care in Ontario: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/building-better-future-discussion-paper-transforming-early-years-and-child-care-ontario>

transitions. One such transition is from school to the workforce. *Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario*, calls for expanding learning opportunities outside of the classroom to include community-based, civic and humanitarian activities. What's more, the report of the Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel, *Building the Workforce of Tomorrow*, highlighted that expanding experiential learning opportunities is critical to success in the area of skills development. The Panel recommended that Ontario should commit to strengthening and expanding experiential learning opportunities across secondary, post-secondary, and adult learning environments.

Through experiential learning and outdoor education, the YMCA provides programs that allow students to learn outside of the classroom. In select school boards working in partnership with YMCA Simcoe/Muskoka, students receive credit for participation in YMCA Youth Leadership programs, designed to foster skills in conflict resolution, problem solving, communication and decision making. The benefits of this program are twofold: they support teens and young adults who may struggle with traditional classroom approaches to learning and they provide knowledge and skills that will be useful in post-secondary education and the workforce. The YMCA recommends:

5. An expansion of experiential learning partnerships and programs with not-for-profit organizations, such as the YMCA. Given the YMCAs' expertise in programming for youth, the YMCA is especially suited for a seat at the Planning and Partnership Table recommended by the Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel.

IV. Newcomer programs and services

Every year, Ontario welcomes approximately 100 000 newcomers, nearly half of all that arrive in Canada.³ The province has responded to the atrocities of global conflict by welcoming more than 14 000 refugees in 2016 with the strong support of community service providers and volunteers, like the YMCA.⁴ The YMCA offers the essential supports that are needed for newcomers upon their arrival to Canada: child care and early years services, language assessment, employment services and perhaps most importantly, a place to connect with others and develop a sense of belonging. While the YMCA applauds the province for its ambitious newcomer agenda, we are aware that funding shortages in newcomer programs have negative implications for newly arrived Ontarians and the province as a whole.

Our Newcomer Youth Leadership Development (NYLD) program is designed to help newcomer youth and parents have a positive settlement experience. NYLD offers a safe, supportive and fun environment to meet new people, build new skills and get involved in the community. We would like to expand this program to reach newcomer youth arriving in other places where the YMCA is a community anchor.

³ Government of Ontario. (2016, July 4). *Ontario Immigration*. Retrieved December 22, 2016, from About Ontario: http://www.ontarioimmigration.ca/en/about/OI_ABOUT_PEOPLE.html

⁴ Government of Ontario. (2016, December 6). Government of Ontario Newsroom. Retrieved December 22, 2016, from Ontario Support Available for Refugees: <https://news.ontario.ca/mci/en/2016/12/ontario-support-available-for-refugees.html>

In order for newcomers to make a strong contribution we must ensure at the outset that they are equipped with the abilities and skills to do so. It is our job to help newcomers settle in the province and we know that we can do better with more resources for programs and services that facilitate integration. It is for these reasons that the YMCA recommends:

6. An investment in the YMCA from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration to serve more clients that identify as newcomers and help them build community connections and develop important skills.

V. Hydro in the charitable context

The YMCA operates recreational facilities across Ontario that are hydro intensive. This means that our Centres of Community use more than 250,000 kilowatt hours of electricity making us ineligible for the 8% rebate that residents enjoy. At the same time, our Centres of Community do not individually produce an average peak demand over one megawatt, leaving us ineligible for the recent expansion of the Industrial Conservation Initiative. As a charitable organization with high rates of hydro usage, we are unable to access the designated supports for business, residents or industry, leaving us grappling with the high global adjustment rate and increasing hydro fees with no relief. The financial incentives to conserve energy during peak hours are difficult to implement as our operations are most popular during these times. The YMCA recently submitted a paper collectively with the ONN through the Long Term Energy Plan consultation, we are using this opportunity to further echo our earlier messages and recommend:

7. The Government of Ontario recognize the unique circumstances of the YMCA as a charity operating hydro-intensive facilities and requiring additional support to cover global adjustment fees through a reduction in fees. The savings generated from reduced hydro expenses would be reinvested in our community programs and services. We further suggest conservation programs tailored specifically for the charitable and not-for-profit sector.

April Bateman
Senior Manager, Ontario RDC Government Relations
YMCA of Greater Toronto
2200 Yonge St., Unit 300 Toronto, ON M4S 2C6
T: 416-928-3362 ext. 22548
E: april.bateman@ymcagta.org



**YMCA of
Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford**

79 James Street South
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 2Z1
Ph: 905-529-7102
Fax: 905-529-6682
www.ymcahbb.ca

Project Summary

Since 1953, YMCA Wanakita has been a leader in environmental education, youth leadership development and overnight camping. Situated on over 1000 acres of rich history and tradition in Haliburton, Ontario, we are moving forward to renew YMCA Wanakita. YMCA Wanakita’s renewal will preserve our historic foundations while strengthening our capacity to maintain excellence in programming that builds environmental awareness and responsibility, confidence, and leadership skills.

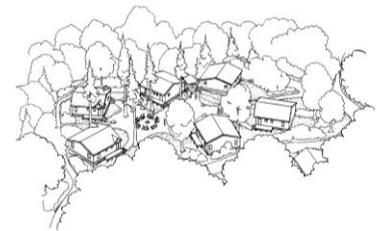
Increasingly, research is showing that opportunities to explore and experience the natural world not only provide the physical health benefits of activity and exercise but also have psychological and developmental benefits. Our camp experience provides the outdoor recreation and environmental education that nourish our physical and mental health and meet the needs of children, youth and families.

YMCA Wanakita renewal objectives include:

- Maintaining a safe, inclusive outdoor space for children and families of all backgrounds and abilities
- Strengthening the delivery of year-round environmental education programs and the YMCA Wanakita leadership development program, as the preferred environmental education centre for many Ontario school boards
- Meeting all environmental regulatory requirements, serving to complement our environmental education programs

Project Details

Location: 1883 Koshlong Lake Rd., Haliburton, ON
 Site Size: 1000+ acres, 1.2km shoreline
 Anticipated opening: Ongoing camp operations throughout
 Estimated project cost: \$8 million



In March 2014, an architectural firm completed a \$100,000 infrastructure renewal plan that included a complete site survey, an evaluation of the 145 buildings on the property and an assessment of the infrastructure support services required. Earlier this year, a five year staged implementation plan was developed for an investment of approximately \$8 million. This plan addresses the most urgent infrastructure priorities in sequence and accounts for the requirements to continue to provide year-round environmental education and leadership development at camp.

Our key investment areas are as follows:

Accommodation	Construction of new cabins and renovation of existing cabins
Waterfront	Renewal of shoreline to support more effective delivery of five main waterfront programs
Leadership Centre	Development of new year-round environmentally focused Leadership Centre
Entrance & Welcome Centre	Redesigned entrance and renovation/integration of existing buildings for safe and welcoming arrival
Infrastructure	Investments in infrastructure to continue to meet Ministry of the Environment regulations

*Building healthy
communities*

With the combined resources of the YMCA of Hamilton | Burlington | Brantford, other potential funding partners, and a successful capital campaign, we are embarking on a new plan to preserve the camp experience. Work is in its early stages and will continue throughout our 5 year project plan.

Alignment with provincial policy:

The YMCA is dedicated to the growth of all persons in spirit, mind and body, and to their sense of responsibility to each other and to the global community. Contact with nature is an essential component to achieving mental and physical well-being and to ensuring that nature is valued and understood in relation to its immeasurable benefit to society.

Ontario's Climate Change Strategy highlights the importance of generational change, noting that our attitudes towards energy conservation, sustainable forest management and preserving and protecting the environment form at an early age. YMCA Wanakita's programming builds environmental awareness and responsibility in children and youth, directly aligning with Ontario's Climate Change Strategy.

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2011 – *Protecting What Sustains Us*, includes: "Inspiring and empowering people to value and protect biodiversity" as one of three key objectives. YMCA Wanakita contributes to many of the key actions that fall under this objective, including: providing opportunities for all people to become involved in biodiversity conservation, with a focus on youth and new Canadians and implementing the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights.

Ontario has led the way to encourage children to spend more time in nature through being the first province to release a Children's Outdoor Charter. The Ontario Children's Outdoor Charter highlights that spending time outdoors is essential to every child's development, health and well-being. YMCA Wanakita supports the Ontario Children's Outdoor Charter by offering children opportunities to participate in the recommended activities including: swimming in lakes, canoeing, observing plants and wildlife, camping and following trails.

YMCA Wanakita's programming also responds to the Ontario Government's Plan to Conserve Biodiversity through engaging people by communicating the relevance of biodiversity to society; however, YMCA Wanakita has the ability to do more. An investment in YMCA Wanakita will strengthen our capacity to engage tens of thousands of children and youth in Ontario's natural environment and ensure that they are knowledgeable and responsible custodians of Ontario's natural wealth.

YMCA Wanakita not only mirrors the values of Ontario's Climate Change Strategy, Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2011, Ontario Children's Outdoor Charter and Ontario Government's Plan to Conserve Biodiversity, it implements the actions necessary to drive change in order to secure a present and a future where Ontarians value and protect their natural environment.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SUPPORT:

The YMCA of Hamilton-Burlington-Brantford is asking the government to invest \$5.3M in the capital renewal plan for YMCA Wanakita.



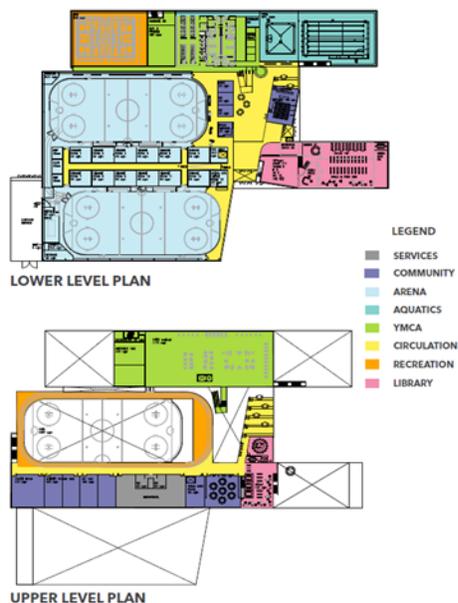
Southwest Community Centre, Library & YMCA – New facility

Project Summary

The Southwest Community Centre, Library & YMCA is a partnership between the YMCA of Western Ontario, the City of London and the London Public Library, in collaboration with local community agencies and residents. The Southwest Y will create a unique opportunity for residents to access a healthy, positive and safe space within the community. In working together, our goal is to provide better access for residents in underserved neighbourhoods to multiple social and recreational services in one location.

The Southwest Community Centre, Library & YMCA (at Southdale and Bostwick Roads) will be home to a variety of inclusive programs and services available for children, youth, adults and seniors from diverse backgrounds. Programs and services will evolve to respond to the specific needs of the community over time. Modest participation projections suggest a minimum of 7,500 active members.

The facility will provide the Southwest London community (including the underserved neighbourhoods of Westmount, Byron, South London and Lambeth) with a space for programs and services that support healthier and happier communities. Services will include:



- Fitness and recreation programs
- Aquatics programs (two pools)
- YMCA day camps
- Full service public library
- Services for individuals with disabilities
- Community rooms
- Fitness and recreation programs
- Two full-sized ice pads
- Subsidized membership
- External track and walking route
- Child minding
- Youth leadership development programming
- Natural heritage creek
- Civic courtyard
- Green play area

The London community will have opportunities to participate throughout the development of this landmark facility through activities such as attending design and planning meetings, participating in committees, volunteering and filling new employment opportunities.





Project Details

Location:	Southwest corner of Southdale Road and Bostwick Road, London,
Facility Size:	ON 150,000 sq. ft. (including two arenas)
Anticipated opening:	August 2018
Estimated project cost:	\$55 million
Timeline:	Construction 2017 - mid-2018

The facility is being developed under the leadership of the YMCA of Western Ontario in partnership with the City of London and the London Public Library. Once built, the YMCA will ensure continued sustainable and accessible operation of the facility for generations to come through contributions from YMCA operations, the City of London programs, the London Public Library operations, community space rentals and community fundraising.

The partners are working collaboratively on all aspects of facility development and have made significant progress toward achieving our funding goals. The YMCA of Western Ontario is in a capital campaign for our \$10 million share.

Alignment with provincial policy:

At the YMCA we work to build healthy communities by nurturing the potential of children, teens and young adults, promoting healthy living and fostering social responsibility. The Southwest Community Centre, Library and YMCA will provide the facilities and space necessary to carry out the important programs and services that cultivate communities where everyone can meet their potential.

The Premier’s Advisory Council on Community Hubs adopted an optimistic tone noting that there are enormous opportunities available to enhance the role of community hubs in the province – the Southwest Community Centre, Library and YMCA is one such opportunity. We will meet the goals explicated in the Community Hubs Strategic Framework of co-ordinated planning and client-focused service delivery; furthermore, integrated programming with our facility partners will offer locally driven and innovative programming for members of our community. Collectively, our impact will be greater.

The Southwest Community Centre, Library and YMCA will also contribute to the Ontario Government’s Sport Plan to drive the legacy of the Pan Am/Parapan Am Games by providing recreational facilities to ensure that all children in Ontario have the opportunity to lead healthy active lives.

Bringing this Community Centre to the Southwest London neighbourhood will provide services to members of an underserved community, as identified by the City of London’s Master Recreation Plan. With commercial and residential development in the area growing, the Southwest Community Centre, Library & YMCA will be an important resource in continuing the progress towards a well-served community that has the resources to enable its residents to achieve their full potential.

OPPORUNITY FOR SUPPORT:

The YMCA of Western Ontario is asking the government to invest \$6.6 million in the Southwest Community Centre, Library & YMCA

Building healthy communities





Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA

Project Summary

A new YMCA Centre of Community within Vaughan's new, emerging downtown. This is a partnership between the City of Vaughan, the Vaughan Public Library and the YMCA of Greater Toronto. The VMC YMCA will house a branch of the Vaughan Public Library as well as a performing arts style studio managed by the City of Vaughan.

Project Details

Location: Vaughan Metropolitan Centre
Facility Size: 114,000 square feet
Anticipated opening: October 2019
Estimated project cost: \$72.1m

Funding Scenario:

The Centre is being developed as a partnership between the City of Vaughan, the Vaughan Public Library and the YMCA of Greater Toronto. The YMCA, which will be approximately 75,000 sq ft in size will include a YMCA Child Care, Health and Fitness Centre and Camps. The City of Vaughan services will include a library and a performing arts studio. The City of Vaughan is providing up to \$56m to make this centre a reality and the YMCA is committed to funding approximately \$14m.

Alignment with provincial policy:

At the YMCA we believe that everyone deserves the chance to grow and flourish in spirit, mind and body. And more than that, we believe that with the right support and opportunities, everyone can. By improving the health of the community and building a better sense of belonging for local residents, the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA will be strengthening the neighbourhood for years to come.

Ontario's *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2014* ("Bill 6") espouses the need to take a long-term view of the needs of Ontarians particularly in health and education, in our case: health promotion, when making infrastructure funding decisions. While the province's current infrastructure focus is on transit and roads in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, the need to fund community infrastructure remains. Currently, there are no provincial funding streams for recreational and social infrastructure open to charities for direct application.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:

The YMCA of Greater Toronto is asking the government to invest \$14m in the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA.



YMCA of Greater Toronto

2200 Yonge St., unit 300
Toronto, ON M4S2C6
416-928-3362
ymcagta.org

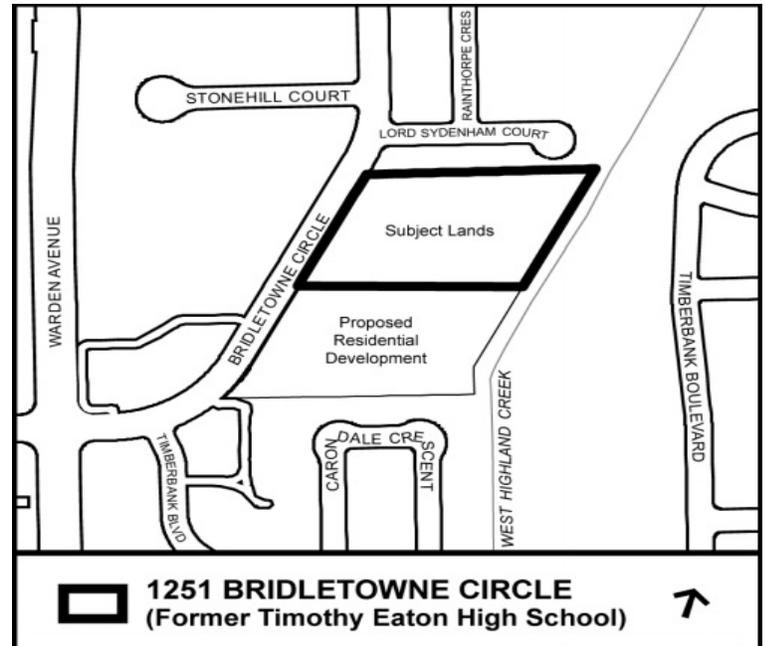
Bridletowne Neighbourhood Centre

Project Summary

Located at the intersection of Warden and Finch, the new Bridletowne Circle YMCA Centre of Community will be an example of healthy infrastructure. The new facility will include a YMCA Centre of Community, including child care, a life-saving kidney dialysis unit run by The Scarborough Hospital and a Community Hub led by Agincourt Community Services.

Project Details

Location: Bridletowne Circle, Scarborough
Facility Size: 125,000 square feet
Anticipated opening: TBD
Estimated project cost: \$83.4 m



Funding Scenario:

The proposed Bridletowne Neighbourhood Centre (BNC) is a partnership between the YMCA of Greater Toronto, City of Toronto, United Way Toronto & York Region, The Scarborough Hospital, and Agincourt Community Services Association, in collaboration with local community agencies and residents. Once open, the Bridletowne Neighbourhood Centre (at Finch and Warden) will be a leading example of healthy infrastructure meaning it will be a community feature designed, built, and operated to promote community health. A truly integrated hub, it will house a new YMCA Centre of Community; medical services provided by The Scarborough Hospital to include a Centre of Excellence in Chronic Disease Management; and a consortium of community service agencies led by Agincourt Community Services Association. A wide variety of programs and services will be available for children, youth, adults and seniors, all from diverse backgrounds. The Centre will provide the Steeles-L'Amoreaux neighbourhood with a space for services and engagement that supports a healthy and happy community.

The partners are working collaboratively on all aspects of facility development, including achieving our funding goals:

- Toronto City Council allocated \$6 million to purchase the land from the Toronto District School Board in March 2012 as well as \$600,000 cash through s.37 funding in 2014 and has committed \$2.5 million to fund construction of a child care;
- United Way Toronto & York Region is contributing \$3 million in capital to the community agency space;
- The Scarborough Hospital is working with their provincial funding partners to secure the investment required to fund their \$40.4 million component of the project; and



- The YMCA of Greater Toronto is undertaking a community fundraising campaign to raise \$10 million
- The YMCA of Greater Toronto is contributing \$2.9 million

Alignment with provincial policy:

At the YMCA we believe that everyone deserves the chance to grow and flourish in spirit, mind and body. And more than that, we believe that with the right support and opportunities, everyone can. By improving the health of the community and building a better sense of belonging for local residents, the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA will be strengthening the neighbourhood for years to come.

The *Premier's Advisory Council on Community Hubs* report defines community hub as “a central access point for a range of needed health and social services, along with cultural, recreational, and green spaces to nourish community life.” This is the model of the proposed Bridletowne Neighbourhood Centre. We believe that this centre will be showcase for the community hub model.

Ontario's *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act* (“Bill 6”) espouses the need to take a long-term view of the needs of Ontarians particularly in health and education, in our case: health promotion, when making infrastructure funding decisions. While the province's current infrastructure focus is on transit and roads in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, the need to fund community infrastructure remains. Currently, there are no provincial funding streams for recreational and social infrastructure open to charities for direct application.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:

The YMCA of Greater Toronto is asking the government to invest \$18m in the Bridletowne Neighbourhood Centre.



YMCA in Barrie Centre of Community Proposal

Project Summary

Health and reinforcing a healthy lifestyle are at the core of what the YMCA does. We focus on prevention, recovery, self-management, as well as the social support needed to grow in spirit, mind and body. Our goal is to build personal responsibility within our communities and globally.

The YMCA is a charitable organization that provides values-based programs and services that help instill the importance of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and inclusiveness. It's a place where friendships are formed and family ties are strengthened. A YMCA is a centre of community where people meet and discover common needs or interests. To reach as many people as we can, the YMCA also offers financial assistance to reduce financial barriers to participation.

Project Details

Location: Barrie Ontario
Facility Size: 55,000 sq. ft
Anticipated opening: Fall of 2020

The current facilities in our Barrie YMCA have existed since 1963, are old and have run the course of their functional life. This project is designed to move our YMCA and community into a new facility that reflects our vision for a YMCA in the 21st Century. Based on over 18 months of community consultation, this facility will be a Community Hub that will work in partnership with many other organizations including the Royal Victoria Hospital, Youth Haven, The City of Barrie, The County of Simcoe and Hip Developments. As captured in the above image, located in the downtown core the facility will cover a full scope of services delivered by a unique collection of partners. The development includes residential accommodation, health and wellness, arts and culture, youth support and education, transitional housing, cardio vascular services and child care.



Funding Scenario:

The Centre is being developed under the leadership of the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka, a leading charity in Simcoe County. The partners are working collaboratively on all aspects of facility development, including achieving our funding goals. The local Council, Member of Provincial Parliament Ann Hogarth and Members of Parliament Alex Nuttall and John Brassard count themselves among the tireless community advocates for the project.

Funding will come from a variety of sources including the sale of the YMCA's current property, a capital campaign and government support. The City has been involved from the beginning with this project and is providing support for both land acquisition and parking.



<u>Facility Capital Cost</u>		<u>Funding Sources</u>	
55000 sq. ft facility (\$450 sq. ft.)	\$ 24,750,000	Grove St.	\$ 6,000,000
Architect Design, Planning	\$ 2,103,750	Capital Campaign	\$ 7,000,000
Land	\$ 1,000,000	Government	\$14,769,875
Furnishings	\$ 1,000,000	Financing	\$ 1,769,875
Capital Campaign	\$ 686,000		
Total	\$ 29,539,750		\$29,539,750

Government Funding to support youth transitional housing, RVH Cardiovascular Unit and YMCA Health and Wellness Centre

Alignment with provincial policy:

The YMCA believes that everyone deserves the chance to grow and flourish in spirit, mind and body. We believe that with the right support and opportunities, everyone can. By improving the health of the community and building a better sense of belonging for local residents, the YMCA Centre of Community will strengthen the neighbourhood for years to come. This project also supports the provinces Places to Grow Strategy as it will be part of a major downtown development.

Situated as a book mark for the west end gateway to the City of Barrie’s downtown core, this innovative Community Hub aligns with many of the provinces initiatives including community hubs, housing, child care and Places to Grow. It covers a broad spectrum of services including:

- A partnership with Barrie’s Royal Victoria Hospital for relocation of their Cardiovascular unit to allow post cardiac care patients to find their path to holistic health and well-being within an inclusive environment at the YMCA
- 30 youth transitional housing units to be operated by Youth Haven, a charitable organization currently running youth shelters in Barrie and area
- A youth centre for 13-18 year olds
- Support services for youth through our youth services outreach workers and staff
- Full health and wellness facility with exercise area, community rooms, etc.
- Health related professionals with services such as massage therapy and physiotherapy
- Child care and child minding space
- A residential initiative that will see 648 new condo and rental units built in downtown Barrie

Ontario’s *Infrastructure for Jobs and Prosperity Act, 2014* (“Bill 6”) espouses the need to take a long-term view of the needs of Ontarians particularly in health and education. Currently, there are no provincial funding streams for recreational and social infrastructure open to charities for direct application.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SUPPORT:

The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka is asking the government to invest \$14,769,875 toward the creation of a new Centre of Community in downtown Barrie. This money would be in support of three major partnerships between the YMCA, Royal Victoria Hospital and Youth Haven. This new Community Hub will contribute approximately 2.2 million in taxes a year to the city and will stimulate the economy with about 200-250 million in new development in the heart of downtown.