



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **YMCA-YWCA and the Canada Green Building Council Launch the Green Building Training Program**

**OTTAWA, September 1, 2021** – The YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region, in partnership with the Canada Green Building Council (CaGBC), are graduating their first cohort of the Green Building Program, a new skills training program to connect a trained workforce to the growing needs of the green building sector. Recruitment for Cohort 2, beginning September 20, 2021, is currently underway.

The first of its kind in Ottawa, the Green Building Program provides training for 40+ people per year to obtain the technical and theoretical skills needed to work as labourers in green building and construction. There is no cost for participants to complete training, as it is funded by the Ministry of Labour, Training & Skills Development. The program is designed to connect the green building industry to qualified job seekers to meet the increased demand for skilled labourers in this field.

“We are thrilled to be offering this unique and innovative program,” said Melanie Vaughan, Senior Director, Employment and Immigrant Services at the YMCA-YWCA. “We know the green building industry is in need of skilled workers, and that job seekers are looking to develop their skills and contribute to the workforce. The Y is prepared and eager to help bridge that gap. Our experience in Skilled Trades programming and strong relationships with local construction companies will set this program up for success.”

The goal of the Green Building Program is to bring job opportunities to qualified candidates. Job placements in the field will be arranged directly following training, and several local companies are ready to hire following program completion. The program responds to industry needs by training unemployed individuals, or those already employed in the industry. Participants will also receive 18 hours of customized entrepreneurship training provided by the Ottawa Community Loan Fund.

“The CaGBC is pleased to partner with the YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region on the development and delivery of their Green Building Program,” said Brent Gilmour, Chief Commercial Officer, Canada Green Building Council. “The building sector is critical component in achieving Canada’s carbon commitments. This community-based solution will help upskill the existing workforce and attract new workers, including those from COVID-impacted jobs or those under-represented in construction, such as women, Indigenous or racialized communities. For these new workers, green building can provide meaningful work that can support the City of Ottawa’s efforts to become a zero emissions community by 2050.”

- more -



The next intake for the Green Building Program gets underway on September 20, 2021. Applications are currently being accepted. To learn more about how to qualify and apply or hire and train, please visit [ymcaywca.ca](http://ymcaywca.ca).

### **About the Canada Green Building Council**

CaGBC is the leading national organization dedicated to advancing green building, building retrofit, and sustainable community development practices. CaGBC works with industry and all levels of government to make every building greener and healthier for occupants, while reducing carbon emissions and environmental impacts. CaGBC sets and verifies advanced green building standards, conducts government advocacy and market research, and provides education and training that has reached over 45,000 Canadian professionals since 2002. In 2004, CaGBC established the LEED® green building rating system in Canada and developed the first Zero Carbon Building Standard in 2017. For more information, visit [cagbc.org](http://cagbc.org).

### **About the YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region**

Founded in 1867, the YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region is a registered charity dedicated to building healthy communities. The organization is committed to nurturing the potential of children, teens and young adults, promoting healthy living and supporting vulnerable people within the community. The Y serves more than 90,000 people across the Ottawa region annually. A focus on inclusiveness and accessibility means people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities are served through all stages of life; and through its financial assistance programs, the Y is accessible to all. To learn more visit [ymcaywca.ca](http://ymcaywca.ca).

-30-

### **For media inquiries, please contact:**

Andrea Bailey, Director, Marketing and Communications  
YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region  
613.237.1320 Ext. 5167  
[andrea.bailey@ymcaywca.ca](mailto:andrea.bailey@ymcaywca.ca)