



Dear Friends,

It has been a little while since we last reached out, and because so much has changed - not only in the world and our community, but also at our Association - we thought the time was right to give you an update on your Y and wish you the best of the fall season!

It's hard to believe that nine months have passed since the beginning of COVID-19 closures in March. Throughout this time of uncertainty, our Y has remained committed to providing vital community programs and services, as safely as possible. Unfortunately, the pandemic has also dramatically impacted our organization. It has taken a great deal of innovation, adaptation, and determination to ensure we continue to serve the people of the National Capital Region.

In March, most of our facilities were ordered closed by the Ontario Government, and for the first time in our 153 year history, we were forced to temporarily layoff 483 staff members. Despite this, we continued to provide essential services in Transitional Housing, and very quickly pivoted to offer Newcomer and Employment services online before reopening to walk-ins several months later. Our Child Care services were also soon reopened as an essential service necessary to support families who were working outside the home. Though our health and fitness facilities remained closed at this time, we kept our members engaged by providing access to online fitness, health, and family programming.

In April, we managed a small number of positive COVID-19 cases in our Transitional Housing programs. By working closely with Ottawa Public Health and the City of Ottawa, we were able to successfully contain and curb the spread to other families in our building.

In July, we launched our Camp season, providing children with much needed social and activity-based programs. Although affected by stringent health protocols and reduced numbers, our campers had a wonderful, safe summer. We have since expanded to offer a Forest School program this fall and winter to assist families who are at home with their children. Finally, our Health and Fitness facility at the Taggart Family Y was reopened in September with restrictions in place, running very smoothly until the second closure last month. We have now reopened again, and are looking forward to opening more facilities to more members slowly, as soon as it is safe to do so.

Like so many others have experienced, the past nine months have been anything but easy. We have undergone a great deal of transition at our Y. From closing facilities and losing associated revenue streams, to developing and implementing stringent health and safety protocols for staff, residents, clients, and members - it has been a challenging time. Our staff have faced these challenges with grace and great resolve, and yet, it has also resulted in a number of staff moving on. The members of our Financial Development team are some of those no longer with our Y. We hope you'll join us in wishing them well, and rest easy knowing that we are still here and available for our donors.

This is an important time in our community, and the need for connection and support has never been greater. As we continue to respond to help our community and evaluate our programs and reopening plans, we also anticipate an increased demand for our support. The Y is ready and resilient, but we can't do it alone. We need your help to help our community thrive again. If you are able, please consider [supporting the Y with a donation](#).

As always, I am humbled and grateful for your support of the Y's mission. Thank you for staying with us, and helping us build a healthier community.

Sincerely,

R.J.(Bob) Gallagher M.P.A.
President & CEO
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2020 Y Golf Classic

Despite COVID-related restrictions, we had a wonderful turnout on a perfectly sunny day at the Camelot Golf and Country Club in September, and raised over \$190,000 for children and families to access vital Y programs and services.

Thanks goes to our organizing committee, sponsors, participants, and volunteers for a great day! [See more photos >](#)



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