



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE YMCA PROVIDES SAFE ACCOMMODATION FOR WOMEN IN NEW HOUSING PROGRAM

OTTAWA, March 7, 2023 – The YMCA of the National Capital Region (the Y) is pleased to announce the launch of a new transitional housing program for women experiencing homelessness, funded by the City of Ottawa.

This new 20-bed transitional housing program is now welcoming adult women. Those requiring emergency housing must first be assessed by the City of Ottawa to determine eligibility and to authorize placement at the Y. Located within the Y's Shenkman Residence on Argyle Avenue in downtown Ottawa, residents are provided private rooms and have access to shared bathrooms and kitchens.

“The Y is a valued partner of the City of Ottawa, providing vital transitional housing for families and individuals experiencing homelessness in our community,” says Bob Gallagher, President and CEO at the YMCA of the National Capital Region. “We not only provide a safe place to live temporarily, but also offer impactful supports and wrap around services like employment and newcomer services, child care, and health and fitness programs, which directly impacts our residents’ lives and their ability to move on in the housing continuum to independent living.”

The following additional wrap-around supports are offered to residents:

- Access to information and services for immigrants at the Y's Newcomer Information Centre.
- Job search assistance and access to computers at the Y's Employment Centres.
- Support in many languages through staff and cultural interpreters.
- Assistance connecting to appropriate community resources.
- Access to on-site case management support.
- 24-hour / 7 days a week crisis counselling and assistance.
- Access to Y health and fitness programs and services.

While the City of Ottawa has been making great strides towards reducing the number of chronically homeless families and individuals, in 2022, 347 people – including 136 children – called the Y home. In pre- and post-COVID years, those numbers were significantly higher.

“The Y continues to be an integral partner in the city's supportive housing system. This new capacity to support single women will help address a vital need for transitional housing spaces as homelessness continues to increase in our community since the pandemic.” said Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor City of Ottawa.

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About the YMCA of the National Capital Region:

Founded in 1867, the YMCA 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 thousands of people across the Ottawa region each year. A focus on inclusiveness and accessibility means people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities are served through all stages of life. To learn more visit ymcaottawa.ca.

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