

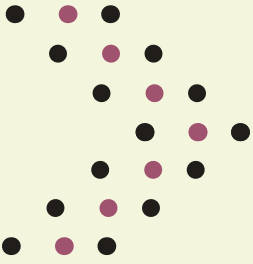


ANNUAL REPORT

2021



YMCA of
Northern Alberta



A theme that emerged in 2021 was “navigation”. As the COVID-19 pandemic and related health and safety measures continued, our YMCA community came together to chart and steer a course that ensures our YMCA would be financially strong and present to help the communities of central and northern Alberta thrive.

Resiliency is required to navigate any new path. 2021 presented countless challenges including mandatory facility closures, changing restrictions and increasing cases and variants of COVID-19 illness. Our Y family of employees and volunteers never wavered. They stepped up and showed their strength and commitment to helping the individuals and communities we serve.

We are truly humbled and forever grateful for the resilience demonstrated by each member of the Y family this last year and throughout the pandemic. The work and impact of the YMCA would not have been possible without our truly remarkable team. And our YMCA would not have navigated 2021 without the support and patience of our donors, community partners, members and participants. The number of supporters who continued to choose the YMCA, donate to the YMCA and partner with the YMCA throughout the pandemic is phenomenal – thank you.

We know that communities need the YMCA now more than ever. The pandemic has left many feeling isolated, stressed, anxious and unwell. Our YMCA is committed to doing what we have done for more than 115 years, helping people find a sense of connection and community and providing wellness support so everyone can thrive in mind, body and spirit. That is the North Star by which we navigate and it continues to shine brightly to guide us through even the roughest seas.

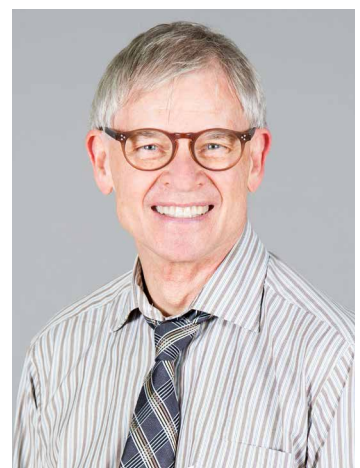
As we continue to manoeuvre the challenges and opportunities that the post-pandemic environment presents, we are confident in the future of our YMCA, and in our ability to be the place where everyone can connect, belong and thrive in central and northern Alberta.



Nick Parkinson

President & CEO

YMCA of Northern Alberta



John Corlett

Chair, Board of Directors

YMCA of Northern Alberta



Our Mission

YMCA of Northern Alberta creates life-enhancing opportunities for the growth and development of all people in spirit, mind and body.



Our Vision

Strong kids, healthy families, thriving communities.



We Value

Respect, honesty, caring, responsibility, diversity and social inclusion.



BELONGING

"We are all so different, yet we can all still come together at any time to help each other out. It's what the Y is about."

- Megan, Y Member

"I feel so at home, connecting with the people here."

- Harry, 8+ year resident in YMCA affordable housing

"I love the YMCA because I get to play!"

- Ella, 6, Donor

"You establish friendships and the Y is a close-knit community... The YMCA is the best thing I would recommend to anybody!"

- Gerry, Lifetime Member



"I love children, to help them grow and be there as their support... Maybe one day they'll be here volunteering like me."

- Bradley, Volunteer



LEADERSHIP

Each year, hundreds of volunteers give their time and talent to make YMCA programs and services great. Without the commitment, ambassadorship and generosity of our volunteers, the YMCA's ability to serve the community would not be possible. Thank you to our volunteers!

The volunteer work of both the YMCA Board of Directors and the Foundation Board is fundamental to the Y's success. They work to ensure the Y remains viable, with the goal of building thriving communities.

YMCA Board of Directors – Governance

John Corlett, Board Chair	Dale Bendfeld	Robert de Guzman	Harold Kunas
Raphael Bohlmann, Vice Chair	Holli Bjerland	Michael Donlevy	Andrew McPherson
Robyn Eeson, Vice Chair	Adam Budzinski	Tim Haak	Alan Murphy*
Andrea Bailer	Curt Clement	Jeremy Herbert	Sheena Spear

* term ended in 2021

YMCA of Northern Alberta Foundation Board – Governance

John Lilley, Board Chair	John Corlett	Bob McColl	Kirby O'Connor*
Rahim Adatia	Doug Cronk	Deborah McKinnon	Nick Parkinson
Rajan Bhatti	Alexandria Fisher	Scot McLeod	Jean-Jacques Tremblay
Brent Buchanan	Tim Haak	Tim Melton	

* term ended in 2021

YMCA Senior Leadership Team

Nick Parkinson
President and Chief Executive Officer

Jody Kyle
Chief Operating Officer

Ruth Menegozzo
Chief Financial Officer and Vice President

Joan Baker*
Vice President, Community and Housing Initiatives

Kent Bittorf
Vice President, Health, Fitness and Aquatics

Jesse Grieder
Vice President, People and Culture

Michelle Hynes-Dawson
Vice President, Community and Digital Engagement

Ken Muggerridge
Vice President, Assets and Capital Projects

Annalise Yuzda
Vice President, Child Care

* retired in 2021

GAJOONG'S STORY

In 2003, Gajoong immigrated to Canada from South Korea. With her three children in tow, she left her parents, siblings and job as a teacher to come to a country and a city that she had only ever seen on a globe.

"I never knew about Canada... I never knew about Edmonton. I picked up a globe, spun it and picked a city. It was Edmonton."

Gajoong's journey to Canada was built on a dream, and while she was nervous, her first experience in Canada has stuck with her.

"I was very nervous, but I had heard a lot of good things about Canada. When I got to the airport, I thought, 'What did I do? Did I make a good decision, or is this a mistake?' I remember arriving in Vancouver and as the customs agent stamped my passport, she looked at me, smiled and said, 'Welcome to Canada!'"

Now, in an unfamiliar city, and without support from family or friends, Gajoong set to work. She enrolled in ESL (English Second Language) and earned her Grade 12 diploma in 2006. Gajoong's employment was sporadic at first, but she remembers taking her three children to the YMCA when they were very young.

"They learned to swim at the YMCA, and when I saw a poster, I decided to get involved."

Gajoong applied to a position at the Melcor YMCA Village and in 2012, she became a YMCA employee as a front desk receptionist there. The connections and friendships she made at the YMCA with Melcor tenants and YMCA staff helped her through very challenging times.

In 2014, Gajoong's two oldest children were hospitalized after mental health crises. While dealing with the stress of her children in

hospital and working two full-time jobs, Gajoong recalls returning to work at the YMCA after a night spent in the hospital with one of her children.

"I was so exhausted," Gajoong remembers. "I came into work and one of my coworkers asked, 'Are you okay?' I lied and said yes, but she saw a visitor sticker on my shirt from the hospital and said, 'You need to rest. Take my break time and go rest.'" Still, Gajoong is touched by the interaction with a fellow YMCA employee. "She didn't have a second thought—she just helped me."

The unimaginable stress of carrying multiple jobs and the hospitalization of her children continued to weigh on Gajoong, and she was forced to stay in a hospital herself. "I needed to go to the hospital. I couldn't work at that time and I didn't want to lose my YMCA job. I called my supervisors and they gave me all the time I needed."

Gajoong relied on a YMCA Family Ties Program (FTP) support worker during her time in the hospital. The support worker helped her daily as Gajoong navigated the situation she was in. After being discharged, Gajoong continued to work with FTP and other professionals to navigate the medical system and Children's Services.

Both through the interactions with her coworkers and the YMCA's Family Ties Program, Gajoong found the support she needed to get through one of the most difficult seasons in her life. "If I didn't have the YMCA, I don't think I would have made it," Gajoong says. "I remember being embarrassed to talk to my supervisor about my issues, but she said, 'Don't worry, I'm a strong arm to lean on.'"



“It’s a second home for me,” Gajoong says. “The YMCA saved me. I have a reason to keep going at the YMCA.”

“That touched me,” Gajoong says. “That’s what I want to be now: a strong arm to help others.”

Gajoong returned to work at the YMCA and was eventually asked to apply for a new position at the YMCA’s Family Resource Network (FRN) after staffing changes at Melcor YMCA Village.

“They asked me to apply as a Family Resource Navigator at the FRN. I had no confidence, but they told me to believe in myself, and that my experience at Melcor would help, so I applied.”

Gajoong got the job as a Family Resource Navigator and began learning as much as she could about her new job and the resources that are available for families struggling in her community. Though her new position brought with it some uncertainty and fear, Gajoong knows that she is making a difference.

“At the YMCA, my calling is helping others. It’s so rewarding. I can help with a warm heart. I can be a strong arm to lean on.”

As a Family Navigator, Gajoong now helps people who have had similar experiences to

hers. At heart, Gajoong is a helper, and her role at the FRN ensures that she can do what she loves at the YMCA. “I know how desperate people can be. I know that they may need help, but don’t know how to get it. When people come to Canada, they need a guide. They need a lighthouse. As a navigator and someone who knows what it’s like to struggle, though I can’t help everyone, I will be a lighthouse.”

Gajoong thinks back to when she landed in Canada almost 10 years ago. “For many people who come to the FRN, I’m the first person to connect with them. That first contact is so important... like me when I first came to Canada and was welcomed by the customs agent and felt hope. We’re giving people hope.”

For Gajoong, the YMCA is so much more than just a job. “It’s a second home for me,” she says. “The YMCA saved me. I have a reason to keep going at the YMCA.”

“My story is still a work in progress,” Gajoong admits, “but with the YMCA, I will survive.”

COMING FULL CIRCLE

SHILLA'S STORY



"I'm not just a program alumni, I'm a living testimony. I can say to youth, 'I had the same barriers as you, but the YMCA helped me.'"

Finding employment can feel like a marathon for many job-seekers. For young professionals like Shilla, getting help and being empowered in the search for a job makes all the difference.

Shilla left Kenya to come to Canada in a leap of faith to pursue a degree at Cape Breton University. "I moved from Kenya by myself, which was challenging," Shilla says. "I didn't know anyone. I only knew the address to the school. You can't be scared all your life. Sometimes, you have to take risks."

Shilla's outgoing attitude served her well, and after completing her degree in communications, she moved from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia to Grande Prairie, Alberta. Finding herself in a new city once again, Shilla encountered barriers to landing a job in her field.

"Every employer wanted me to have a home address, but when I wanted to get a home address, they asked for my employment. When you can't find one without the other, that's a challenge."

Shilla's lack of previous experience was another hurdle to overcome. "The jobs were out there, but most professional jobs want two to three years of experience. I went to work at McDonald's. That was the only place that would have me without experience. I worked there for a couple of months, but that's not what I wanted."

"I had to get back into the job seeking pool, and that's how I found Bridging the Gap."

YMCA's Bridging the Gap (BTG) is an employment readiness program that helps

young job seekers like Shilla gain the skills they need to successfully navigate the job interview and application process. Shilla applied to BTG and soon received a call back to join the program.

In BTG, participants like Shilla work closely with YMCA Employment Counsellors who assist participants through workshops and one-on-one sessions where they provide workplace skills and the tools to overcome stress and anxiety during the search for a job.

“The employment counsellors were very helpful,” Shilla says. “They were there when I needed them, and even when I didn’t need them, they were there for me.”

Valerie Shook, a BTG Employment Counsellor, remembers her first interaction with Shilla.

“She was amazing. She came in with skills, knowing who she is but was brave enough to explain that she didn’t know why she was encountering barriers.” Valerie worked closely with Shilla to help her develop the confidence she needed to find a job.

With the skills and confidence she gained from BTG, Shilla was soon hired as a coordinator at the John Howard Society working with youth in Grande Prairie. “It’s a program that is helping to change the system of education and employment. I work with youth to find employment, overcome barriers and work with employers in the community.”

“It’s interesting,” Shilla says, “considering the experience I have with BTG. Now, my job and BTG intersect. My job is about helping youth find employment. I’m not just a BTG alumni, I’m a living testimony. I can say to youth, ‘I had the same barriers as you, but the YMCA helped me. The community helped me.’”

In this way, Shilla’s story of BTG has brought her full circle. She got the opportunity to share her story with Valerie when they ran into each other at a job fair.

“I saw Shilla at a job event,” Valerie recalls, “and when I saw what she was doing for John Howard, I was so proud of her. It was great seeing her stand behind that table and explain her programs to the youth coming by.”

“Seeing how happy she was for me and how proud she was of me really made me proud of myself,” Shilla says.

But for Shilla and all YMCA Bridging the Gap participants, the program is so much more than a means to finding employment. The lessons that Employment Counsellors like Valerie impart on participants have lasting impacts.

“There’s a lot of expectations on youth to decide what they want to do very early, and society teaches us that we need to get there quickly,” Valerie says. “Sometimes it takes grounding and support to know that it’s okay if it takes a few steps to get to that point. Even when we think we have failed, we’re actually gaining experience.”

For Shilla, getting the support she needed to find her career made a difference.

“BTG changed my life,” she says. “Not only with finding employment, but also giving me confidence and making me a better person.”

Summarized Financial Results

Statement of Operations Year Ended December 31

	2021	2020
Revenues		
Program fees	\$ 18,428,096	\$ 11,879,138
Membership dues	2,870,214	3,199,556
	21,298,310	15,078,694
Operating grants – government	19,361,528	17,243,352
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy – government	7,130,760	13,448,508
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	3,286,091	4,014,632
Operating grants – other	3,024,776	2,159,973
Contributions	1,106,684	1,242,784
Housing	930,057	1,179,251
Rental and other revenue	723,134	963,966
Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy – government	595,630	35,000
United Way	235,980	386,791
Investment income	60,571	61,966
Gain on disposal of capital assets	-	3,000
	57,753,521	55,817,917
Expenses		
Salaries, wages and benefits	37,082,249	37,895,202
Occupancy and maintenance	6,941,373	6,017,057
Amortization of capital assets	4,403,487	4,948,895
Participant support costs	2,249,589	1,166,429
Supplies	1,870,526	2,115,176
Purchased services and insurance	828,458	616,493
Communications	738,088	805,379
Membership and association dues	524,834	308,614
Finance and program registration fees	479,419	482,800
Training and travel	330,822	377,841
Other expenses, including GST	245,755	248,957
Interest on long-term debt and capital leases	185,379	207,045
Amortization of intangible asset	126,300	126,300
Bad debt expense (recovery)	91,489	(73,344)
Loss on disposal of capital assets	55,411	-
	56,153,179	55,242,844
Excess of revenues over expenses before other items	1,600,342	575,073
Other items		
Gain on disposal of land and building	3,241,049	-
Write off of capital assets	-	(711,629)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	\$ 4,841,391	\$ (136,556)

Statement of Financial Position as at December 31

	2021	2020
Assets		
Current assets	\$ 15,876,003	\$ 17,291,726
Restricted cash equivalents	836,724	847,340
Capital assets	38,480,005	42,548,293
Intangible asset	1,462,975	1,589,275
Long-lived assets held for sale	-	1,593,951
	\$ 56,655,707	\$ 63,870,585
Liabilities		
Current liabilities	\$ 8,448,911	\$ 17,016,055
Obligations under capital leases	4,795	14,172
Long-term debt	4,711,014	5,102,561
Long-term payable	436,724	401,425
Long-term reserve fund payable	400,000	400,000
Deferred capital contributions	31,831,441	34,954,941
	45,832,885	57,889,154
Net Assets		
Investment in capital assets	9,960,990	7,834,284
Unrestricted	861,832	(1,852,853)
	10,822,822	5,981,431
	\$ 56,655,707	\$ 63,870,585

At the YMCA, belonging is a two-way street. We foster the spirit of inclusiveness in the communities we serve while we help new families and individuals build strong and lasting connections.

Both can be seen at work in our health and wellness centres, community centres, child care centres and community and housing programs.

Annual Revenues

2021

\$57.8 million

- 38.5% Membership and fees (including Housing)
- 33.5% Operating grants – government
- 13.4% Federal government COVID subsidy revenue
- 5.7% Amortization of deferred capital contributions
- 5.6% Operating grants – other (including United Way)
- 1.4% Rental and other revenue
- 1.9% Contributions

Revenues from funding support

2021

\$31.5 million

Our 2021 annual revenues exceeded \$57.8 million, of which 54.5%, or \$31,455,358 was received in funding support from our outstanding donors, government partners, community foundations and funders.

- \$19,361,528 Operating grants – government — for child care, Youth Exchanges Program, Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Red Deer and Wood Buffalo Bridging the Gap, Employment Supports, Employment Link, YMCA Community Action Network, Youth Diversion, Youth Detour, Boyle Street Plaza Community Centre, Eagle Ridge Community Centre, Northside Community Centre, Castle Downs Family YMCA, Red Deer Homeward Bound, YMCA Digital Literacy program, Edmonton, Grande Prairie and Wood Buffalo Family Connect, North Central Edmonton Family Resource Network (FRN), Settlement Workers in Schools, Local Immigrant Partnership, Immigrant and Settlement Services, Housing First and Foreign Workers Program.
- \$7,726,390 Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy and Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy – government — Federal government COVID subsidy revenue
- \$3,024,776 Operating grants – other — for Youth Transitions Program, After School Learning Adventures, the YMCA Family Resource Centre, Collective Kitchen, Edmonton and Grande Prairie Alternative Suspension, Youth Diversion and Temporary Foreign Workers – COVID Supports.
- \$1,106,684 Contributions — to support members and program participants with financial assistance, our international partners, Edmonton Homeward Bound, a Housing First Program, YMCA Supports for Wellness and Flood Support programs in Wood Buffalo.
- \$235,980 United Way funding — for youth programs in Edmonton and Grande Prairie including After School Learning Adventures, YMCA Alternative Suspension Program and Youth Transitions Program.



Charitable Registration: 11930 7122 RR001

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