

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Board Chair Letter:

After six years on YW Calgary's Board of Directors, with the last two as Board Chair, I cannot imagine a more poignant moment in YW's history to be concluding my time with this amazing organization – at least as part of the Board of Directors. The level of action over the past year, culminating in the completion of two new facilities, and the growth in program impact fills me with pride and deep respect for the work YW will continue to do in this community.

Last September was a highlight in my tenure as we celebrated the Grand Opening of the new YW Crisis Shelter. This project was key for the organization as it completed a five-year plan to develop new, adaptable facilities that utilize the deep understanding YW has in supporting those experiencing trauma. The new shelter nearly doubles the capacity for women and children of residents, while inspiring prevention program innovation to impact even more Calgarians long into the future.

Early this year, YW Calgary released their first Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy as well as their new organizational values, demonstrating the organization's commitment to growing their understanding, knowledge and ability to foster equity and inclusion for staff, clients, partners, and community. Leaning into their newly identified values of innovation and integrity, the journey continues to embed both components across all aspects of YW's work.

The level of professionalism and expertise within YW, supported by strong and competent leadership, has ensured that goals for significant strategic projects are met, and continued capacity exists to pursue opportunities to meet the changing needs of women and their children. YW utilizes their unique experience and expertise to address and advocate for women and their families.

A final highlight for me that embodies this strategy was the intentional actions YW Executive and the Board of Directors took this year in recruiting new members to the Board. Through social media, YW heard from many incredible talents in the community. The final selection process was exceedingly difficult and demonstrated how trusted and respected YW is in Calgary.

I know YW will continue to be supported by a highly skilled and enthusiastic Board of Directors and I want to express how honoured I have been to be part of this organization. My deepest gratitude to my colleagues on the YW Board – past and present – for sharing your time and your talents with me and the organization. From times of internal focus that created clarity in our direction, to times of actions that set YW up to explore truly limitless opportunities, YW has the people, the skills and the trusted voice to drive forward their vision of a safe and equitable community for women and their families.



SHARON CARRY

Board Chair

