

A Message from our CEO

Thank you for taking a few moments to learn more about YW Calgary's 2024-2025 year that embraced past actions to provide opportunities that yield future paths and possibilities.

If you have not already listened to my short introduction video, please take a quick look [here](#)

In 2024, YW was able to support nearly **10,000 individuals to find the safety, support, services, and resources they needed**. That is an increase of **25%** over the previous year, which means close to **2,000 more people** journeyed down a new **PATH and discovered the possibilities available to them**.

This kind of growth in service delivery is driven by many aspects but is made possible by our exceptionally talented employees who are dedicated to creating supportive and inclusive environments where everyone feels welcome, valued, and supported.

In the past year we have not only seen a deepening of the economic crisis in our city but also the growing political instability that is driving uncertainty. We have been closely watching with growing concern the effect of rollbacks around the world related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.

At the national level, YWCAs across Canada dealt with the unfolding challenges of Truth and Reconciliation and our collective and individual roles in the history of YWCA that caused pain and trauma to Indigenous People.

While so much work is still to be done, I am proud to say YW Calgary has been on a journey of

Reconcili-ACTION for several years and we continue to learn, grow our understanding, and intentionally move forward in ways that respect and value Indigenous experience and teaching.

YW remains firmly committed to embracing and embedding Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion throughout our long and rich history in this city, highlighting our commitment and learning that comes with change. To celebrate this history and help chart our path forward, we have focused on intentionally redeveloping our YW Board Alumni Engagement program.

Last summer we ran a social media campaign focused on reconnecting with past Board Members and asking them to help us find others who served on YW Calgary's Board. The goal has been and continues to be bringing together the wealth of experience and skills of past YW Board Members to support the organization and empower future women leaders.

As part of this work, we created a unique identity for this group of strong, brilliant women – the newly established ALLY Group – **Advancing a Legacy of Leadership for YW** A network of volunteer women advocates, supporters, leaders, and expert guides who work every day to advance YW's work to build safe and equitable communities in Calgary.

Every path begins
with a first step.

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It has been a thrill for me to see so many ALLYs at our events, participating in conversations, coming for tours of our facilities, and offering their ongoing support and passion for YW. The power of their voices, alongside YW's truly drives change and this has been even more critical this year to ensure we are able to advocate for the social issues and barriers families in Calgary continue to face.

YW Calgary is an organization committed to women's equity and inclusion and takes brave actions that value and empower diversity. We speak out against injustices women and gender-diverse individuals face and we will not be swayed from that path.

One of the more visible ways we demonstrate this is by bringing powerful thought leaders to our community who add a different perspective and stimulate deep conversations. For the past twelve years we have brought relevant and powerful speakers to our annual YWHISPER Gala who inspire and activate those in the audience.

This past year, as we watch the growing risk to women's equity and personal choice, alongside backlash to racial and cultural inclusion we were thrilled to host Dr. Kimberlé Crenshaw for the 13th annual YWHISPER Gala. Dr. Crenshaw had an audience of over 800, including myself, on the edge of their seats as she talked about the inherent risks of allowing people and groups to chip away at foundational freedoms and opportunities everyone deserves to have.

These moments define our work, our organization and make me increasingly proud to stand up and speak about YW Calgary. If this brief overview has inspired you, then I encourage you to explore our entire Impact Report where you will find more empowering stories and updates from YW Calgary's 2024-2025 year.

Thank you for your support and commitment to ensure thriving futures for women and their families.



Sue Tomney

Chief Executive Officer, YW Calgary

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Tomney".

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