



YWCA
C A N A D A

A TURNING POINT
FOR WOMEN

UN POINT TOURNANT
POUR LES FEMMES



annual report 2007

A message from Liz Bourns, YWCA Canada Board President, and Paulette Senior, Chief Executive Officer



Liz Bourns

The YWCA movement was founded on a strong vision for women. For more than **130 years** we have been a turning point in the lives of women and girls, acting as a voice for women across the country and maintaining our deep involvement in the key issues which affect them.

2007 was no exception. Key research projects revealed the alarming number of women in Canada's north who face homelessness; the particular challenges for women and their children in the shelter system; and the necessity for gender-specific locally-responsive girls' programming, allowing girls to express themselves and learn in supportive environments grounded in gender analysis.

In addition to this pioneering work, we continued to adhere to our mission by responding to women's needs, ensuring that the right policies and infrastructures are in place to safeguard their well being and help them achieve economic security. To this end, we called on the federal government to reinvest in a national childcare program, and we challenged them on the slashing of the Status of Women Canada budget, the cancelling of funds for the Court Challenges Program, and the continued lack of pay equity, fighting to put women's equality back on track.

With **35** Member Associations operating in more than **400 districts** and communities across the country, our programs reach **1 million** women and girls in nine provinces and one territory. YWCA is the **largest national provider of shelter to women**, offering emergency shelter to **25,000** women, children and teen girls, including **6,000** fleeing woman abuse each year. We provide affordable housing to **6,000** women and children, employment and skills development training to **50,000**, and childcare services to **35,000** - making us the second largest provider of childcare in the country. We also offer health and wellness services to more than **5,500** women and **40,000** children, and receive **500,000** calls for information and referrals.

Supporting and empowering girls and young women continues to be a focus in our services, with more than **100,000** receiving benefit from our violence prevention, youth mentorship and other community programs, **30,000** in our camps and recreational services, and **86,000** in our public education and prevention initiatives such as the YWCA Week Without Violence™ and Power of Being a Girl™.

In addition to our national work, YWCA Canada is a member of the **World YWCA**, which spans **125 countries** and unites **25 million women** through a common vision of a fully inclusive world. As we work towards the goals set in the strategic business plan, we recognize the vital role we have played in the lives of so many women at home and abroad. But with history comes a responsibility to continue to affect change at every opportunity and raise our voices for the rights of women and girls. In 2008 we will continue to engage in this challenge with the collective strength of our movement.



Paulette Senior

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007 - 2008

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Liz Bourns

Vice-President

Michelle Bullas

Treasurer

Jyotsna Custead

Secretary

Lynne Kent

BOARD MEMBERS

Maureen Bell

Kristin Blakely-Kozman

Lise Blanchette

Liz Bourns

Michelle Bullas

Joann Chechalk

Jyotsna Custead

Dayna Daniels

Kylie Head

Ève Joseph

Joanne Keith

Lynne Kent

Ann Martell

Mary Pat Moore

Françoise Mercure

Jessica Notwell

Margaret Paterson

Francine J. Piché

Catherine J. Riggall

YWCA ACROSS CANADA

YWCA BANFF, AB

YWCA BRANDON, MB

YMCA-YWCA BRANTFORD, ON

YWCA CALGARY, AB

YWCA CAMBRIDGE, ON

YMCA-YWCA CENTRAL
OKANAGAN, BC

YWCA DURHAM, ON

YWCA EDMONTON, AB

YWCA FU-KWONG, ON*

YMCA-YWCA GREATER
VICTORIA, BC

YMCA-YWCA GUELPH, ON

YWCA HALIFAX, NS

YWCA HAMILTON, ON

COMMUNITY YMCA-YWCA
KAMLOOPS, BC

YWCA KITCHENER-
WATERLOO, ON

YWCA LETHBRIDGE
& DISTRICT, AB

YWCA MONCTON, NB

YWCA MONTREAL, QC

COMMUNITY YWCA
MUSKOKA, ON

YWCA NIAGARA
REGION, ON

YMCA-YWCA NATIONAL
CAPITAL REGION, ON

YWCA PETERBOROUGH,
VICTORIA & HALIBURTON, ON

YMCA-YWCA PICTOU
COUNTY, NS

YWCA PRINCE ALBERT, SK

YWCA QUEBEC, QC

YWCA REGINA, SK

YMCA-YWCA NORTHEAST
AVALON, NF

YWCA ST. THOMAS-ELGIN, ON

YMCA-YWCA SAINT JOHN, NB

YWCA SASKATOON, SK

YWCA SUDBURY, ON

YWCA THOMPSON, MB

YWCA TORONTO, ON

YWCA VANCOUVER, BC

YMCA-YWCA WINNIPEG, MB

YWCA YELLOWKNIFE, NWT

YWCA CANADA

75 Sherbourne St., Suite 422

Toronto, ON M5A 2P9

T: 416.962.8881

F: 416.962.8084

national@ywcacanada.ca

www.ywcacanada.ca

Charitable Registration No.

88878 9393 RROOO1

YWCA Canada advocates on key issues affecting the rights of women and girls

Working in partnership with the **Coalition for Women's Equality (CWE)**, a non-partisan network of autonomous equality-seeking women's organizations that advocate for policy positions to advance women's equality and for a stable and effective Status of Women mechanism within the federal government, we made a presentation to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Status of Women. In it, we spoke out about commitments made by successive governments as signatory to various international human rights treaties and agreements, women's poverty, domestic and family violence, and political representation. Our efforts with the CWE have also focused on lobbying the government for permanent affordable social housing, a national child care strategy, pay equity, the restoration of Status of Women funding levels and mandate, and maternity and parental benefits to women in Quebec.

YWCA Canada is committed to working toward a **national child care strategy** which addresses the real needs of Canadian women and their families. Our support of Bill C-303 argued its importance as a first step in moving towards a national system of child care delivery, allowing for quality, accessible, universal and accountable early learning and child care programs across the country.

We recommend:

- A Federal Child Care Act
- Public accountability tied to provincial and territorial five-year plans
- A system delivered and expanded in the not-for-profit sector with a transition plan developed for existing commercial operators
- Governmental support of base funding for childcare programs, giving them a stable operating base with the balance of the cost offset by a low parent-user fee.

YWCA Canada, **Canadian Crossroads International (CCI)** and **Abantu**, a Ghanaian women's rights organization, are working in partnership to advance the development of a **national public policy framework and strategy for Ghana**. This work includes developing a strong national network of women's equality organizations, including **YWCA Ghana**, sharing best practices, and engaging young women in leadership roles.

There are a number of benefits to the YWCA movement in Canada from this partnership including raising our international profile in the advocacy and public policy field, allowing us to work with YWCA Ghana, and providing an important opportunity for us to learn from the experiences of women in the south. This multi-year partnership agreement is ongoing and has fostered a series of exciting exchanges amongst the three organizations.

As a member of the World YWCA, YWCA Canada works to unite women across the world through a common vision of inclusivity


Last July, over 2,000 women from 95 associations representing 100 nationalities converged on Nairobi, Kenya for the World YWCA's largest international event. The theme of the **26th World YWCA Council** was "Changing Lives, Changing Communities," and YWCA Canada was represented by a remarkable team from across the country. Delegates, observers and organization partners shared in the opportunity to participate in debates and gain new skills through plenary presentations, group work and workshops along with global leaders of the World YWCA.

Concurrent to World Council, the World YWCA, in partnership with the International Community of Women Living with HIV and AIDS (ICW) and other international organizations focusing on women's health, organized the first international conference on women's leadership on HIV and AIDS. The International Women's Summit focused on female-initiated responses to HIV and AIDS to chart a new direction in global AIDS response. Participants in World Council, which takes place every four years, played an active part in determining the future of the YWCA movement, particularly its focus on young women's leadership.

Each year, the **YWCA International Cooperation Committee (ICC)** takes on world initiatives which support and facilitate international growth among world YWCAs. Key projects in 2007 included:


- The *Informatica para Todos* project at YWCA Recife, Brazil, for bringing computer training, income-generation and leadership development to women in the community with the aim of increasing employability skills
- The Poultry Farm project at YWCA Birisi at Mymensingh District, Bangladesh, providing hands-on education and sustainable resources to the community
- Train-the-trainer instruction for YWCA Naucalpan, Mexico, for HIV and AIDS health education and prevention, preparing young women to attend the 2008 International AIDS Conference
- The YWCA Zimbabwe HIV/AIDS caregivers project
- The YWCA Guyana young mothers' program
- The YWCA Russia capacity-building training project in Vancouver
- Rebuilding of the YWCA Nigeria hostel for women and girls
- The YWCA São Paulo, Brazil's Citizenship through Music Education project on health education with a focus on youth and HIV/AIDS.

National initiatives to help women and girls at turning points in their lives



Since its 2005 pilot launch, the **YWCA Girls' Club** has reached out to girls across the country with quality programming addressing key social issues facing young women. A signature **Turning Point Program for Women**, the clubs address the dearth of girl-only programs by reaching out to girls and young women ages 9-18 with the opportunity to increase their awareness about violence against women, while building skills such as leadership, teamwork, self reliance, increased independence, self awareness and positive self esteem. Skilled facilitators work with girls to help them realize their potential and bright future as female leaders.


In 2007 we received a grant from Human Resources and Social Development Canada to continue this important work and extend the project to 20 Member Associations (MAs), with existing clubs acting as peer-to-peer mentors. The aim is to strengthen MAs in their support of one another, allowing them to achieve innovation and assisting them to meet the varied and diverse needs of their communities with flexible, locally responsive programming. In concert with the pilot projects, we are working on developing a multilingual girls' website, national standards for curriculum, program materials, and evaluation and communications strategies which will be included in a comprehensive toolkit available to all participants.



Girls' Club offers gender-specific programs in a female-centered space, encouraging girls to celebrate their achievements by generating an understanding of ownership and entitlement to their basic rights as women. The program plays an important role at a critical turning point in the lives of young women.

Our study, *Beyond Shelter Walls*, a coordinated initiative working to create system change which will keep women out of the cycle of violence, homelessness and marginalization is now in its third phase. Its purpose is to develop and promote collaboration across various sectors providing services to women who have experienced violence. By influencing the development of legislative and socio-legal reforms, YWCA Canada is bridging the gaps between one jurisdiction and another across the country, linking policies with best practices to keep women and their children safe. *Beyond Shelter Walls* is **Phase III** of a multi-year project initiated by YWCA Canada with funding from the Homelessness Partnering Secretariat, Public Health Agency Canada and the Department of Justice. In **Phase I**, our examination of emergency-shelter provision to women across the country showed a patchwork system which had never been assessed for its effectiveness, while **Phase II** looked more closely at the direct experiences and needs of women fleeing intimate partner violence and coming to shelter. **Phase III** aims to enhance community capacity by decreasing the risk factors for women and their children who have experienced violence. Focus is on policy development, new models of service and program delivery, information sharing, and the development of best practices to meet the needs of vulnerable groups.

The project works in various sectors, in concert with service providers, provincial umbrella shelter organizations and decision-makers across the country. This approach is unique in its ability to forge a framework and implementation plan for systems which currently operate in relative isolation from one another. Additionally, the initiative will undertake focused outreach to organizations working on violence prevention with men and boys, integrating their experiences into this important work. In addressing service, policy and coordination gaps, the project works collaboratively, affording women the opportunity to make a successful, lasting transition to permanent housing and lead safer lives in the community post shelter.




Each year, along with 90 countries, YWCA Canada promotes a violence-free world, encouraging diverse groups to participate in activities and events to end violence and build safer communities. More than 86,000 people in over 600 schools, workplaces and neighbourhood organizations throughout Canada recognize **YWCA's Week Without Violence™**, an annual violence-prevention initiative the third week of October aimed at making violence a thing of the past.

2007 marked our 11th annual Week Without Violence™, and to acknowledge the anniversary YWCA Canada and 16 Member Associations across the country hosted a signature event: **The Power of Being a Girl™**, a violence-prevention conference reaching 2,000 girls and young women, ages 12-17. The conference responds to local community needs and relies on girls' leadership in its planning and organization. Workshops focus on a variety of topics including self esteem, relationships, dating, career choices, discrimination, body image, sexual health, bullying, and Internet safety, amongst others. By engaging girls to participate in a Week Without Violence™ we invite them to imagine a lifetime.

Following the release of the groundbreaking study, ***You Just Blink and it Can Happen: A Study of Women's Homelessness North of 60***, on the impacts of homelessness on northern women, YWCA Canada received a grant from Status of Women Canada to address the severe social and economic barriers which prevent many women in the three territories from fully participating in their communities. The **Northern Extension Project** will collaborate with women in Nunavut, Northwest Territories and the Yukon to develop and test programs which will address barriers northern women experience, including violence, poverty and homelessness. YWCA Canada will also encourage the establishment of one or more new YWCAs in the north as a foundation for new programs for women in the territories.

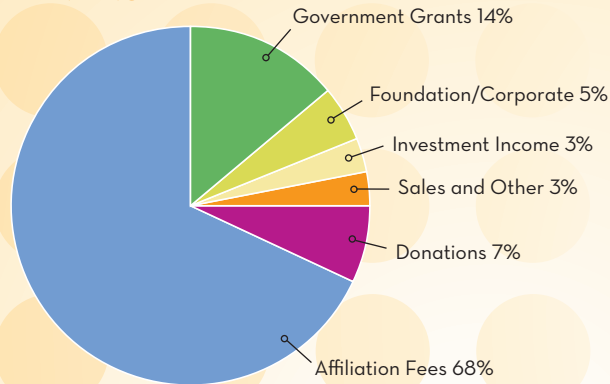
In addition to resource manuals and tools to support implementation, the project will establish new pilot programs in order to engage women in other northern communities. By increasing partnerships with a number of different groups supporting women, including a working group of women in Iqaluit, YWCA Yellowknife, and the Yukon Status of Women Council, the Northern Extension Project will address many of the barriers specific to women in the three territories.



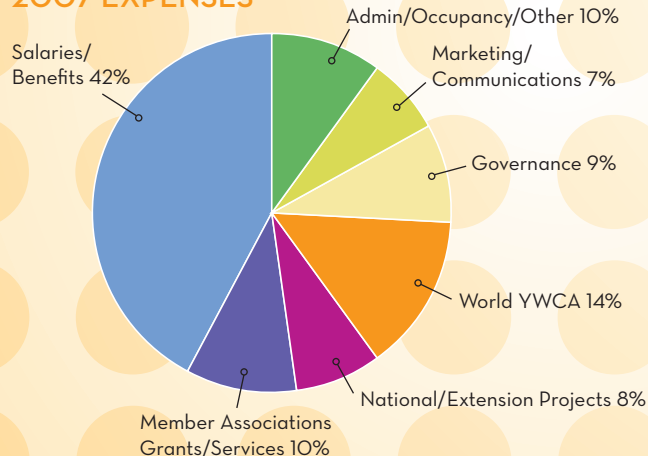
YWCA Canada summary

For the year ended December 31, 2007

2007 REVENUE



2007 EXPENSES



2007

Revenue: \$ 1,320,012
Expenses: \$ 1,308,797
Surplus (deficit): \$ 11,215

2006

Revenue: \$ 1,325,872
Expenses: \$ 1,320,296
Surplus (deficit): \$ 5,576

Financial Statements audited by
BDO Dunwoody LLP.

A full copy may be obtained from the
National Office: national@ywcacanada.ca

2006 National and Member
Association Revenue: \$138,138,601

Partners

YWCA Canada gratefully acknowledges and recognizes the following partners for their contributions and support of our national programs and initiatives:

Beyond Shelter Walls - Phase III

- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Department of Justice
- Homelessness Partnering Secretariat

YWCA Girls' Club

- Human Resources and Social Development Canada

Power of Being a Girl™

- Canadian Auto Workers' (CAW) Social Justice Fund
- Procter and Gamble

Northern Extension Project

- Status of Women Canada
- Canadian Women's Foundation
- Nunavut Government
- YWCA Canada Annie Gray Keith Fund

We also acknowledge our 35 Member Associations for their support of YWCA Canada's national and international initiatives.

Adelaide Hoodless Circle

Named in honour of YWCA Canada's first national President and created to acknowledge the outstanding support of individuals committed to the long-term financial health of the YWCA.

GOLD

Maureen Bell
Robert A. Rosevear
(Clara Rosevear Fund)
Edith Vuchnich

SILVER

Bettina Campbell
Dayna Daniels
The Estate of Inez
Marguerite Fidler
Mary Pat Moore
Catherine Riggall
Paulette Senior
George H. Stedman Estate
(Private Foundation)

SUPPORTERS

Babylune.com
Canadian Dental
Hygienists Association
Canadian Labour Congress
Homemaker's Magazine

BRONZE

Anonymous
Michelle Bullas
Joann Chechalk
Jane L. Glassco
Joanne Keith
Lynne Kent

PLANNED GIVING

Margaret A. Greenhow
Margaret A. MacKenzie
June Murdoch
Joan Tilt
Robert Torrance

McCarthy Tétrault LLP
Mount Sinai Hospital,
in support of Nunavut
Keeping the Doors Open
New Starts for Women
Starshine Video Productions

Donors

Thank you for your support of national programs, projects and initiatives.

Anonymous
Olive Bayliss
Norma V. Bell
Darlene Bessey
Kristin Blakely-Kozman
Lise M. Blanchette
Frances Booth
Arthur N. Bourns
Liz Bourns
Lynda Bowen
Elizabeth J. Burrell
Caren Burt
Frances Cameron
Ellen K. Campbell
Kathy Campbell
Carole Chauncey
Sarah Coombes
Jyotsna Custead
Phyllis I. Davey
Ann Elson
Ethel M. Flewelling
Amanda Gates
Mary Greenwood

Kylie Head
Sine B. Herold
Lois Hollstedt
Richard Hunter
Darcie James
Sumiko Jin
Ève Joseph
Lynne Kent
Kris Kozell
Trish Krause
Kimberly Lyall
Hon. Flora MacDonald
Catharine Maggott
Ann Martell
Joan McMillan,
in memory of
Eleanor Manning
Patricia J. McCraw
Amy McGregor
Françoise Mercure
Marilyn Mitton
Helen Munson
June Murdoch
Anne Nguyen

Holly Nimmons
Jessica Notwell
Margaret Paterson
Francine J. Piché
David Ptolemy
Eleanor Rice
S. Jane Rowe
Peter Scagnetti
Norma L. Senn
Valerie Slater
Carol Ann & David Smith
Tanya Sousa, in honour
of Lois Hollstedt
Sylvia Soyka
Kathleen Steele
Vicki Tompkins
Menorah Waldman
Florence H. Walker
Jo Ann Warren
Joan Wheeler
Jill Wyatt
Maureen Yeske
David Young