



**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Three regional YMCAs explore unification to strengthen impact**

The YMCAs of Brockville & Area, Central East, and Kingston are exploring a potential unification to strengthen their collective ability to build healthy communities in the region.

**BROCKVILLE, ONTARIO - February 8, 2018** - The YMCAs of Brockville & Area, Central East, and Kingston announced today that their three associations are currently undertaking a unification exploration process to review the opportunities and benefits of coming together as one organization. Across Canada, YMCA associations are exploring regional unification, the goal of which is to strengthen the YMCA's ability to create healthier communities, rich with opportunity, potential, and belonging.

Across Eastern Ontario, YMCA associations have a long-standing history of building communities, transforming lives, and providing personal growth opportunities for spirit, mind, and body.

Catherine Deplaedt, Board Chair of the YMCA of Brockville & Area, said that all three associations are very committed to serving members and communities in the best possible way, which includes a responsibility to look at the future and identify new ways to increase the YMCA's impact on individual and community health.

"We are all excited to be exploring this possibility and the potential opportunity for our respective associations to do even more, with more. This exploration is about determining if we can be even more effective, together."

Deplaedt confirmed that all three associations are coming together from a position of strength and not as the result of any individual crisis or pressure. She also noted that while the three associations are excited about this potential opportunity to strengthen the YMCA's impact in the region, they are still in the very initial phases and absolutely nothing has been decided at this point in the process.



“We are looking for new ways to maximize our collective reach and impact, but also recognize that each YMCA is unique, and that it’s important to make the right decision for our individual associations and the communities we serve.”

The process is expected to unfold throughout 2018. Regular updates will be provided to the community as often as possible, as the project reaches key milestones.

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For more information or to set up interviews, please contact:

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## **BACKGROUNDER**

### **ABOUT THE YMCA**

The YMCA exists to help build strong, healthy communities. As a worldwide, multi-service charity, the YMCA provides opportunities for personal growth in spirit, mind, and body for all people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and abilities. Programs and services include health, fitness and aquatics, child care, before and after school programs, summer overnight and day camp, employment services, newcomer settlement and language instruction services, and community programs.

#### **YMCA of Brockville & Area**

The YMCA of Brockville and Area serves over 8,000 individuals annually through a diverse offering of programs and services in the region of Leeds and Grenville in Eastern Ontario. As a leading charity in the region, no one is turned away from the YMCA due to an inability to pay the full fee. Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, in 2016 we provided financial assistance to 1 in 4 individuals, total value of \$407,000, welcoming them to be a part of our community. Our YMCA operates the only year-round full service aquatic facility in the region. Learn more: <https://www.brockvilley.com/>



### **YMCA of Central East Ontario**

The YMCA of Central East Ontario itself is only six years old and is an amalgamation of the 130 year old YMCA of Belleville & Quinte and the 140 year old YMCA of Peterborough. The YMCA of CEO provides programs and services to more than 17,000 members in three YMCA Centres of Community in Belleville, Quinte West and Peterborough. The YMCA of CEO also recently opened a new Child Care Centre in partnership with the Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board in the village of Lakefield. The YMCA provides full day learning and child care to 135 children and more than 650 children in Before and After school licensed and recreation programming in more than 23 schools throughout the region including Havelock, Hiawatha, Norwood and Tyendinaga. Additionally the YMCA delivers summer day camp and aquatic programming in Curve Lake and Tweed during the summer. Learn more: <http://ymcaofceo.ca/>

### **YMCA of Kingston**

Since 1855, the YMCA of Kingston has been an important community staple, serving 9,000 members annually across 3 branches, including St. Lawrence College. With 11 school age sites and 2 licensed child cares, the YMCA of Kingston is a community-focused Canadian charity dedicated to building strong kids, strong families, and a strong community. As a leading charity in the region, no one is turned away from the YMCA due to inability to pay the full fee. Learn more: <http://www.kingston.ymca.ca/>