

150 years of National Advocacy & Community Action

1870

- Agnes Blizzard organized the first Canadian YWCA in two rented rooms in Saint John, NB Other YWCAs established: Toronto - 1873, Montreal - 1874, Quebec City and Halifax - 1875.

1874

- Libraries established in YWCAs of Montreal and Quebec City

1875

- Halifax YWCA opened home for 'delinquent' girls with custodial care and training
- Montreal YWCA initiated nurses' training

1884

- Toronto, Montreal and Hamilton YWCAs taught phonography, stenography and typing — during a time when these were considered too physically demanding for women.

1886

- First Student YWCA formed at Albert College, Belleville, Ontario.

1887

- First Travellers' Aid initiative started by Quebec City YWCA.

1892

- Ottawa YWCA opened a School of Cookery. In 1898, there were 312 women enrolled.

1893

- Adelaide Hoodless organized the YWCA of/du Canada; first annual meeting in Ottawa, January 23, 1895.

1894

- The School of Domestic Science opened at the Hamilton YWCA. Adelaide Hoodless and the Hamilton YWCA are instrumental in having domestic science integrated into the Ontario public school system.

1895

- YWCA of/du Canada becomes the fifth national association to affiliate with the World YWCA.

1898

- "Beau Tax" instituted by Toronto YWCA for young men visiting young ladies at the residence, a \$0.25 fee.

1932

- Montreal YWCA conducted the first course for unemployed domestics, and certifies 162 women as skilled household helpers.

1933

- First training course held for 18 YWCA Physical Education Directors.
- Counselling is introduced as a new field of YWCA work.

1937

- Synchronized swimming introduced by the Peterborough Association.

1944

- 45 Hostess Rooms established by YWCAs across Canada to serve soldiers and their families during World War II.

1951

- 21 YWCAs had active Public Affairs Committees for advocacy.

1953

- First Take-A-Break (TAB) program introduced in the Toronto YWCA. By 1958, YWCAs in 25 cities in Canada offered TAB to 1,800 women.

1965

- International Training Institute sponsored by YWCA Canada & U.S.A. — 48 leaders from 35 countries.
- National research study launched “The YWCA — its role in relation to the Serious Personal Problems of Girls and Women.”

1969

- YWCA of/du Canada lobbied the Royal Commission on the Status of Women calling for more child-care services, improved education and training for women & enforcement of maintenance orders.

1981

- The YWCA joined the historic struggle for the inclusion of a women’s equality provision in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

1982

- Peterborough YWCA published Fresh Start — a publication for women in abusive situations — thousands of copies sold.

1983

- YWCA of/du Canada launched the National Fitness Leadership Certification Program.

1988

- YWCA of/du Canada Operational Mission Statement is adopted, confirming leadership by women for women.

1990

- First National Data Collection initiative is launched

1991

- Pilot program of the YWCA of/du Canada Training Institute with courses in fundraising, HR and board governance.
- The new national logo is introduced. The logo is a combination of three open triangles, symbolizing openness, inclusivity and balance of mind, body and spirit.

1993

- Canada Post issues a stamp of Adelaide Hoodless commemorating the founding of the YWCA of/du Canada.

1998

- The YWCA created the Peer Support System — a national system in which Associations provide services and support to one another.

2002

- The YWCA adopted tagline YWCA Canada | A Turning Point for Women

2005

- YWCA piloted [GirlSpace](#) with seven YWCA Member Associations, offering leadership, empowerment and self esteem programming to girls.

2006

- YWCA celebrated the 10th anniversary of [Week Without Violence™](#).

2009

- The [Rose Campaign to End Violence Against Women and Girls](#) relaunched as annual national advocacy campaign

2012

- YWCA Canada launches *Y Act Up*, a civic engagement and leadership program for young women between 16 and 29 years of age.

2013

- YWCA Canada makes a commitment to Truth and Reconciliation for Indigenous, First Nations, Metis, Inuit and urban Aboriginal women, girls and Two-Spirit People.

2014

- YWCA Canada adopts a new national policy on Prostitution, Sex Work and Women's Safety. Supporting the safety and freedom from violence and harassment of all women, including those who participate in consensual commercial sex work.

2017

- YWCA Canada hosts a Lobby Day on Parliament Hill to push for affordable housing for women.

2018

- Coordinated second annual Day on the Hill where YWCA Staff and board volunteers formed 18 teams and met with over 60 Members of Parliament, Senators and ministerial staff.

2019

- Membership adopted a new tagline: National Advocacy, Community Action
- YWCA launched several labour market access programs including [In Good Company](#) project, focusing on women's economic empowerment, helping to move them towards a sustainable livelihood and [Born to be Bold: Measuring success for women's access to the labour market](#), a three-year research project focused on creating systemic change for women's equitable access to the labour market

2020

- YWCA Canada marks 150th Anniversary
- Released '[A Feminist Economic Recovery Plan for Canada: Making the Economy Work for Everyone](#)' co-authored by the Institute for Gender and the Economy.