

Annual Members Meeting

June 3-4, 2022

To: Chairs/Presidents, Executive Directors/Chief Executive Officers of Member Associations, National Board of Directors

From: Riley Daku and Fae Johnstone, Young Women's Leadership and Engagement Committee Co-Chair

Date: April 18, 2022

Re: Young Women's Leadership and Engagement Committee Report to Members at AMM 2022

Background Information:

In 2015, the YWCA movement unanimously voted to establish the Young Women's Leadership and Engagement Committee (YWLEC). YWCA Canada's newest membership committee was created due to the recommendations presented by the Young Women's Engagement Task Force (YWETF) to the YWCA movement at AMM 2015. To increase productivity and consistency for young women's leadership and engagement across the Movement, the membership voted to merge the YWLEC and the Young Women's Leadership Miles (YWLM). The YWLM now acts as a subcommittee of the YWLEC. Since 2015, the YWLEC has worked to support and enhance the engagement of young women in local associations and the National Movement.

Update since AMM 2021

Since June 2021, most of the YWLEC work has been focused on moving forward our **mentorship, capacity building, and communications** committees' work. In 2020, the communications and mentorship working groups merged to combine efforts and advance their objectives.

Mentorship: This year, the Committee continued its work on forming and developing mentorship guidelines and resources that can be used throughout the Movement. With the

help, documents, and good practices of the National Office and YWCA Muskoka, the Committee was able to work on Agreements, toolkits, and invitations for mentors and mentees. The Committee decided to start a mentorship pilot which will run for the duration of 6 months..

Capacity Building: The Committee continued the work that started the year before regarding capacity building and creating opportunities. The Committee reworked the survey that was built in 2020. This survey's objective was to understand the capacity-building interests of the young women and gender-diverse youth in the Movement. This survey was a joint effort between the Capacity Building and the Mentorship Group. The Committee also worked on the preparation of the focus groups. The focus groups were scheduled for February 2022 to deepen the conversation about the interests of the youth in the Movement about sharing knowledge and creating spaces for young women and gender-diverse youth.

Communications: The YWLEC committee continues to work on ensuring there are clear lines of communication with young women and gender-diverse youth throughout the Movement. Through the work of the Mentorship Committee and Capacity-Building Committee, we pursue our focus on increasing the visibility of YWLEC. A goal for 2022 is to increase the level of communication between the YWLEC and the young women and gender-diverse youth working in the YWCA movement by creating communication streams such as a newsletter to share development opportunities and a space for youth to share their work. More visibility about YWLEC was also added to our website.

Special Events:

June 2021

- On June 10, 2021, the YWLEC hosted a plenary panel focused on young people and the pandemic. **Titled *Preventing a Lockdown Generation - Investing in Canadian Youth for Post-Pandemic Recovery***, the event served as a soft launch of a year-long campaign YWCA Canada will be embarking on ensuring post-pandemic recovery is

ensuring generational equity at the forefront. The panel consisted of leaders including Deanne Howlett, Renata Huyghebaert, Riley Daku, Sharon Ishimwe, and Violetta Nikolskaya. The discussion was moderated by Anjum Sultana, with opening remarks from Peggy Chen. The panel was part of a large-scale advocacy campaign organized by YWCA Canada in collaboration with YMCA Canada. This campaign highlights the challenges young people are experiencing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, from job layoffs to social isolation. For more information about the event, consult Hamzia Bawa-Zeba's [blog post](#).

- On June 11, 2021, YWLEC **hosted a conversation** with committee members as well as young women and gender-diverse youth from the YWCA Movement. This was an excellent opportunity for the YWLEC to share our work, opportunities, and ways to get involved in the Movement, the YWLEC, and its committees. This session was a great opportunity for us to share about the work of YWLEC and allowed us to grow the committee membership.

Current Membership List:

- Riley Daku, YWCA Saskatoon (co-chair)
- Fae Johnstone, YWCA Canada Board member (co-chair)
- Peggy Chen, YWCA Canada Board member (guest)
- Deanne Howlett, YWCA St. John's (guest)
- Hannah Lin, YWCA Muskoka (ally)
- Violetta Nikolskaya, YWCA Hamilton
- Renata Huyghebaert, YWCA Canada Board member (ally)
- Stephanie Albert, YWCA Halifax
- Jill Clairo, YWCA Halifax
- Hamzia Hawa-Zeba, YWCA Canada (Member Services Team)
- Natasha Stephens, YWCA Canada (Member Services Team)
- Jenny Cloutier, YWCA Canada (National office staff support)