

National Statement on The Shoe Project

As of January 2024, YWCA Canada has obtained the rights and ownership of The Shoe Project. YWCA Canada expresses gratitude to The Shoe Project's founder Katherine Govier, for entrusting the program she developed to YWCA Canada. We also extend thanks to all the local organizations and individuals who have supported and participated in The Shoe Project events over the past twelve years.

YWCA Canada and its 29 local YWCA sites now oversee the rights to produce and deliver The Shoe Project. This initiative offers training in writing and performing, guided by mentors, enabling participants to share personal stories of overcoming barriers. Using their shoes as a metaphor, they craft narratives that explore their journeys and triumphs, culminating in live performances for audiences.

A Shoe Project program or event cannot be delivered without involving a local YWCA Member Association. The level of local YWCA involvement and engagement can vary, ranging from minimal support provided to another community organization, to direct program and event management. YWCAs are not obligated to collaborate in a local Shoe Project event or program however one cannot operate without a YWCAs involvement or support as legal owners of The Shoe Project. Furthermore, if funds are raised or community awareness is built by The Shoe Project, YWCAs must benefit.

The transition of The Shoe Project from a stand-alone non-profit organization to belonging to the YWCA federation will be taken 'step by step' with respect for all stakeholders. If you are a community organization that has run The Shoe Project in the past, please contact your local YWCA to inquire if they are interested in collaborating with you. Or reach out directly to YWCA Canada's National Shoe Project Coordinator, Valerie Laws at vlaws@ywcacanada.ca for more insights.

We look forward to the expansion of The Shoe Project to include new participants, new outlooks, and new communities as we build on this much-loved framework.

Sincerely,



Aline Nizigama

Chief Executive Officer | Présidente-directrice générale
YWCA Canada | National Advocacy. Community Action. | Une voix nationale. Des actions locales.
104 Edward St, Toronto, ON M5G 0A7 | aline@ywcacanada.ca |