



Dear friends,

We hope you are keeping well and taking all the prevention measures these times require.

While the COVID-19 outbreak is very serious, it should not discourage us. As a movement that has been driving the rights agenda of women and girls in Canada for 150 years, we have experience in the art of being agile and creative in response to challenges that arise every day. COVID-19 is an example of a unique challenge that will test us, but I'm confident that through cooperation and support we can play a critical role in communities to minimize the impact.

At YWCA Canada, we have initiated prevention protocols ensuring our team is safe and our work continues. In addition, we have been keeping in touch with our members across Canada.

Across the board, the priority has been to establish prevention and contingency plans to ensure the well being of our communities.

**Following public health advisories, many of our fundraising events and programming that would have 250 people or more will be postponed or cancelled.**

**This is a big concern when many of our housing services, support for women fleeing violence, and employment and training programs to support jobseekers depend on these fundraising activities.**

The vast majority of health and care workers are women such as nurses, personal support workers, and early childhood educators. We also know that a disproportionate amount of unpaid care work is done by women, especially those who belong to equity-seeking communities such as Black, Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQ+ communities, and people with disabilities.

Our members are facing new challenges to ensure housing and access to health services for residents are in place. We will continue to monitor the situation and we will share updates with you in the coming weeks.

**In the meantime, we want to invite you to support our local YWCAs in the coming months.**

**The most effective way to ensure they can respond to the outbreak is by making a small monthly gift.**

**If you are in a position to support in a different way, reach out directly to your local YWCA to learn about their most urgent needs.**

Thank you for your solidarity and please do reach out to share more about how you and your community are doing.

Sincerely,  
Maya Roy, BSW, MSc.  
CEO, YWCA Canada