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Written Submission for the Standing Committee on Finance Pre-Budget Consultations in Advance of the 2019 Budget

August, 2018

By: YMCA Canada



Recommendations

- **Recommendation 1:** The government provide funding in the amount of \$70.26 million in fiscal year 2019/2020 to support seven YMCA facility development projects.
- **Recommendation 2:** The government provide funding in the cumulative amount of \$175.6 million for new YMCA facility development projects scheduled through 2021/2022.
- **Recommendation 3:** That charities and not-for-profit organizations are engaged as stakeholders of Canada's infrastructure plan.
- **Recommendation 4:** The government explores opportunities to foster innovation, productivity, and growth in the charitable and not-for-profit sector.
- **Recommendation 5:** The government enter into a co-creation process for modernizing the laws and regulations under which charities, not-for-profits, and social enterprises operate. Imagine Canada anticipates this process should last no more than two years at an incremental cost of \$5 million.
- **Recommendation 6:** The government redoubles their efforts on grant and contribution reform, committing to multi-year funding that recognizes the true cost of program delivery and evaluation, acts in a manner that reflects a shared commitment to transparency, integrates and incentivizes innovation, and values continuous improvement of administrative processes.



Context

Social Infrastructure

A healthy Canadian economy starts with a healthy population.

Studies show that “even a modest reduction in inactivity and sedentary behaviour would cause a substantial decline in disease prevalence and premature mortality, while boosting economic activity and reducing health care spending.”¹

The Conference Board of Canada demonstrates that Canadians living longer and healthier lives would increase GDP by a cumulative \$7.5 billion by 2040, and modest physical activity could reduce health care spending on hypertension, diabetes, heart disease and cancer by \$2.6 billion during the same time frame.²

In addition to reducing overall health care costs, *A Common Vision for increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary living in Canada: Let's Get Moving* outlines other economic benefits to physical activity including increased productivity and lower absentee rates, and economic advantages for businesses, employers and employees.³

But a healthy population extends beyond physical health.

A sense of belonging contributes to improvements in social determinants of health, educational development indicators, civic engagement and other widely accepted dimensions of social and personal well-being. Healthy social, cultural and physical environments play an important role in those outcomes.

This is why access to social infrastructure with services that offer a positive impact on some of Canada's most pressing social issues, such as chronic disease, unemployment, social isolation, poverty and inequality, is critical to increasing Canada's economic growth and competitiveness.

Given the evidence supporting the positive impact of social infrastructure, we recommend:

- **Recommendation 1:** The government provide funding in the amount of \$70.26 million in fiscal year 2019/2020 to support seven YMCA facility development projects.
- **Recommendation 2:** The government provide funding in the cumulative amount of \$175.6 million for new YMCA facility development projects scheduled through 2021/2022.

¹ The Conference Board of Canada. *Moving Ahead: The Economic Impact of Reducing Physical Inactivity and sedentary Behaviour*. October 2014. p1. http://sportmatters.ca/sites/default/files/content/moving_ahead_economic_impact_en.pdf

² The Conference Board of Canada. *Moving Ahead: The Economic Impact of Reducing Physical Inactivity and sedentary Behaviour*. p2.

³ Public Health Agency of Canada. *A Common Vision for increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary living in Canada: Let's get moving*. May 2018. p21. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/healthy-living/lets-get-moving/pub-eng.pdf>



- **Recommendation 3:** That charities and not-for-profit organizations are engaged as stakeholders of Canada's infrastructure plan.

Social infrastructure is key to a healthy population and the YMCA is committed to providing access to health promoting social infrastructure that reflects local needs. YMCA Centres of Community bring together health, social, cultural, and recreational services that foster a sense of belonging for all. We provide safe and welcoming spaces where people can connect with each other and engage in activities that improve their lives and help them achieve their goals. YMCAs offer programs so that Canadians can stay physically active, productive and at work; help Canadians and new residents return to or enter the labour force; and provide access to safe, developmentally appropriate care and learning environments for children, making it easier for parents, particularly mothers, to return to the workforce.

We thank the government for their commitment to providing additional funding for social infrastructure as part of the infrastructure plan, as outlined in Budget 2017. It is a significant indicator of the important role social infrastructure plays in building strong communities. We also acknowledge and thank the government for their continued financial investment in the development of YMCA Centres of Community, most recently in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The YMCA has a long and proud history in Canada, managing \$2.4 billion collectively in physical assets across the country. We understand what Canadians of all ages and abilities need to be healthy, and have the expertise and experience required to develop high-quality programs and policies that translate into action. We believe that there is ample opportunities for our organization to continue to partner with the Government of Canada on the issues impacting Canadians, and collaborate on opportunities to mend system gaps and meet the needs of Canadians in a sustainable manner.

YMCA Member Associations of all shapes and sizes are planning to invest an estimated \$436 million over the next three years in 11 new YMCA Centres of Community across Canada (Appendix A). Our facility development projects feature multi-sector partnerships that include philanthropists, governments, Indigenous communities, charities and not-for-profit organizations, and the private sector. We have identified a cumulative \$175.6 million investment opportunity aligned with the government's funding direction and eligibility through 2022.

For the coming fiscal year, we have identified the following seven new YMCA facility development projects seeking federal funding, representing a cumulative federal investment of \$70.26 million:

YMCA of Okanagan

Dilworth YMCA Child & Family Centre

The vision for the Dilworth YMCA Child & Family Centre is to impact more than 470 families through a focus on child development, youth mental health, and promoting family physical and social health. By engaging the whole family, we will provide a year-round destination where families can access licensed multi-age child care (77 spaces) and parenting support, and where children and youth can participate in day camping, family recreation, education and mental health support programs.

- Funding request: \$1,260,000



YMCA of Greater Vancouver

Coquitlam YMCA Centre

The Coquitlam YMCA will be a 55,000 square foot modern community, health, fitness and recreation facility—impacting more than 16,000 children, teens, adults and seniors each year.

Surrey City Centre YMCA

The Surrey City Centre YMCA will be a 60,000 square foot community, health, fitness and recreation facility, providing over 18,000 Canadians the opportunity to be healthy, connected and engaged.

South Vancouver Family YMCA

The new 60,000 square foot South Vancouver Family YMCA will replace the existing Langara Family YMCA, which has been a part of the community since 1978 and serves more than 16,000 Canadians annually.

- Funding request for the three proposed projects: \$15,000,000

YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford

Hamilton Downtown YMCA Centre

The proposed capital development project in Hamilton’s downtown core will incorporate the traditional YMCA amenities in health, fitness and aquatics while adding innovative social and health care services to provide a holistic community hub. This includes social housing for older adults, outdoor urban green space, a community kitchen, and hospital outpatient services.

- Funding request: \$16,000,000

YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

Barrie YMCA Centre

The new 50,000-square foot Barrie YMCA Centre will expand services that could be used by its more than 5,000 members. This facility will be a “hub” that will house community partners providing a wide variety of programs and services, as well as traditional YMCA programs – creating a centre of community. This includes affordable housing, health, fitness and aquatics, early learning and child care, and cultural programs.

- Funding request: \$13,200,000

YMCA of Greater Toronto

Toronto Bridletowne YMCA Centre

The proposed 150,000-square foot Bridletowne Neighbourhood Centre will be home to a new YMCA Centre of Community anchored by a Health, Fitness and Aquatics centre; medical services provided by The Scarborough Hospital to include a Centre of Excellence in Chronic Disease Management; a consortium of community service agencies led by Agincourt Community Services Association; and a wide variety of programs and services will be available for children, youth, adults and seniors, all from diverse backgrounds.

- Funding request: \$24,800,000



The role of Canada's charitable and not-for-profit sector in the economy

The charitable and not-for-profit sector is one of the largest economic sectors in Canada, employing over two million people and contributing an estimated 8.1% to the national GDP.⁴ A vibrant and competitive sector makes Canada stronger through evidence-based advocacy, high-quality programs and services, and contributing to a more civil society.

The YMCA, and our colleagues and sector partners, such as Imagine Canada, have long been voices for modernization of the legal and regulatory framework governing the charitable sector. During Election 2015, the government committed to modernizing the laws governing charities and not-for-profits; later re-iterated in mandate letters to the Ministers of Finance, National Revenue, and Justice. The Consultation Panel on the Political Activities of Charities also recommended that a modernized framework be developed.

A related and critical policy change in support of innovation and competitiveness is to redouble the efforts on grant and contribution reform. While some bright lights exist, the policies and procedures currently in place can work against policy goals by not adequately recognizing the true cost of program delivery, innovation and evaluation, and the importance of multi-year funding agreements.

Given the size of the sector and its social and economic impact, we recommend:

- **Recommendation 4:** The government explores opportunities to foster innovation, productivity, and growth in the charitable and not-for-profit sector.
- **Recommendation 5:** The government enter into a co-creation process for modernizing the laws and regulations under which charities, not-for-profits, and social enterprises operate. Imagine Canada anticipates this process should last no more than two years at an incremental cost of \$5 million.
- **Recommendation 6:** The government redoubles their efforts on grant and contribution reform, committing to multi-year funding that recognizes the true cost of program delivery and evaluation, acts in a manner that reflects a shared commitment to transparency, integrates and incentivizes innovation, and values continuous improvement of administrative processes.

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⁴ Imagine Canada. *Narrative Core Resource. The Beginnings of a New Discussion with Canadians about the Charitable and nonprofit Sector.* February 2014. Page 12. <http://sectorsource.ca/sites/default/files/resources/files/narrative-core-resource-en.pdf>



Appendix A

Proposed new YMCA projects requesting federal government funding, scheduled through fiscal year 2021/2022.

<i>YMCA Member Association</i>	<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Type of Social Infrastructure</i>
YMCA of Okanagan	Dilworth Child & Family Centre	Early Learning and Child Care
YMCA of Greater Vancouver	Coquitlam YMCA Centre	Recreation
YMCA of Greater Vancouver	Surrey City Centre	Early Learning and Child Care, Recreation
YMCA of Greater Vancouver	South Vancouver Family YMCA	Affordable Housing, Early Learning and Child Care, Recreation
YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg	South West Winnipeg Recreation Campus	Early Learning and Child Care, Recreation
YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford	Hamilton Downtown YMCA Centre	Affordable Housing, Recreation, Early Learning & Child Care, Culture, Seniors Facilities
YMCA of Simcoe-Muskoka	Barrie YMCA Centre of Community	Affordable Housing, Recreation, Early Learning & Child Care, Culture
YMCA of Greater Toronto	Toronto Bridletowne YMCA Centre	Early Learning and Child Care, Recreation
YMCA of Stratford-Perth	Grand Trunk Community Hub	Early Learning and Child Care, Recreation, Seniors Facilities
YMCAs across Southwestern Ontario	Walpole Island YMCA Centre	Early Learning and Child Care, Recreation
YMCAs of Quebec	Kanawana Camp Dining Hall	Recreation

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