

YMCA Community Report

2024 - 2025



Shine On

A Legacy of Impact, A Future of Possibility

From generation to generation, we're growing with our community.

This past year was marked by progress, advocacy, and celebration. From expanding access to child care in new and innovative spaces, to bringing people together through Sudbury's first-ever Community-Wide Job Fair, to honouring enduring legacies at camp, to establishing new partnerships with local organizations like Play it Forward to support youth health and wellness, we have witnessed the remarkable power of collective effort. Our YMCA Fill the Bus campaign continued to grow, generating community support and helping more kids access programs, equipment, and supplies that set them up for success.

Each milestone reflects the lasting impact made possible by the dedication of our supporters, partners, volunteers, and staff. Together, these achievements lay the foundation for a future full of opportunity and promise. Looking ahead, our commitment remains unwavering: everyone has the potential to shine—and everyone deserves the opportunity to do so. We will continue working to ensure individuals and families across our region have access to programs, supports, and connections that help them feel empowered, included, and supported by a community that believes in them.

We invite you to explore the highlights in this report and see the meaningful impact we create when we come together.

Sincerely,

Your Y

A Message from Our Board Chair

As we look back on the past year and focus on the path ahead, I am reminded of something that continues to define our YMCA: the collective strength that comes from people across our region working toward a shared purpose. Time and again, we've seen how the Y brings communities together—helping us meet challenges head-on, create new opportunities, and keep moving toward a healthier, more connected future for everyone.

This past year, we were proud to welcome new members to our Board of Directors, each bringing lived experience and insight from the communities we serve across North Bay, Sudbury, Timmins, and the many towns and rural areas in between. Their perspectives deepen our understanding of regional needs and strengthen our commitment to thoughtful, community-centred governance. As a Board, our role is to listen, to guide, and to ensure the YMCA remains strong, accountable, and responsive—and I am grateful for the integrity and dedication each member brings to that work.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on expanding the YMCA's reach and impact across the North. Each community has its own realities, strengths, and aspirations, and we are committed to ensuring the Y continues to meet people where they are—supporting children, teens, adults, and seniors at every stage of life. From promoting health and wellbeing, to helping individuals build skills and confidence, to fostering connection and belonging, the YMCA remains an anchor our region can count on.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your trust, your partnership, and your belief in the power of community. The year ahead holds tremendous opportunity, and I look forward to the work we will do together.

Together in community and gratitude,



Message from our President and CEO

If I had to choose one word to describe this past year, it would be stability.

In a world that feels like it is shifting under our feet — with uncertainty in our economy, conflict and turmoil filling the news cycle, and so many people wondering what will come next — the YMCA has become something rare: a place that feels steady. A place where the noise quiets, where people can breathe, where connection feels possible again.

Every day, we saw how deeply our communities needed that sense of grounding. A child learning to swim for the first time. A newcomer finding their first circle of belonging. A senior rediscovering movement. A teenager finding a calm space to sort out their day. A parent feeling joy as they watch their child thrive. These are not small things — they are reminders that stability isn't abstract. It is built moment by moment in places that feel safe, warm, and welcoming.

This year asked us to step fully into that role. Our teams showed up with consistency and compassion. Our volunteers showed up with generosity. Our donors and partners showed up with belief in what we do. And because of that collective commitment, thousands of people across Northeastern Ontario had a reliable place to land and hold onto.

As I reflect on 2025, I feel deeply proud of the steadiness we brought to a year that was anything but predictable. And I feel even more committed to the role we must continue to play: being a source of strength, belonging, and joy for the communities we serve.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, donors, partners, and members for helping us keep that promise — for helping the YMCA be a foundation when so many need one. Let's carry that stability forward into the year ahead.

Our communities are counting on it. And together, we are more than ready.



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Community Initiatives



Marie-Josée Pelletier
General Manager, People & Culture



Summer Brooks
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A photograph of a woman and a young girl in a swimming pool. The woman, on the left, has her hair in a braid and is smiling at the girl. The girl, on the right, is laughing joyfully with her eyes closed. The water is a clear, light blue. In the background, another person in a red life preserver is visible. A large, semi-transparent red graphic element, resembling a stylized 'V' or a large letter, is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Key Celebrations

Health and Wellness

A Renewed Aquatic Centre for North Bay

The renovation of the North Bay YMCA Aquatic Centre marks an exciting step forward for our community. With a \$700,000 investment from the City of North Bay, the project replaced the pool deck floor system, upgraded tile, and improved pool gutters—strengthening the long-term experience for everyone who uses the space. While the work took longer than expected, we were thrilled to welcome members and participants back into the refreshed Aquatic Centre and look forward to the many memories it will support for years to come.



Celebrating 25 Years of the Centre for Life: A Hub of Community Connection and Wellness

The YMCA of Northeastern Ontario and community partners celebrated 25 years of the Centre for Life in downtown Sudbury—a longstanding hub for connection, support, and wellness. Since 2000, the Centre has hosted essential services, family programs, and wellness initiatives that have strengthened the well-being of local residents. The milestone was marked with storytelling, reflections, and a photo installation honouring the Centre’s collaborative spirit and its lasting impact on generations of families.



10,180
MEMBERS



563
RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Employment Services

A Record Turnout: 2,500+ Job Seekers Explore Careers at Sudbury Job Fair

The first-ever Community-Wide Job Fair in Sudbury drew more than 2,500 job seekers to Sudbury Community Arena on May 7, connecting them with 86 employers from over 100 sectors. Attendees met face-to-face with hiring managers, participated in on-the-spot interviews, and explored opportunities from entry-level to executive roles.

Presented in collaboration with community employment partners and supported by local sponsors, the event made a significant impact by helping job seekers take meaningful steps in their career journeys while supporting businesses in filling crucial positions.



793
CLIENTS

Immigrant Services



Sharing Stories, Building Belonging: Food as a Bridge for Newcomers in Sudbury

What began as a simple idea grew into a powerful expression of connection, culture, and community. For years, staff had envisioned creating a cookbook that would celebrate the recipes and stories of newcomer clients—but it wasn't until a client stepped forward to volunteer that the project truly came to life.

Working together, staff and volunteers invited newcomer families, particularly newcomer mothers, to share recipes from their home countries. Along the way, a cooking workshop brought families together, with children contributing drawings of their favourite dishes and conversations opening up about food, culture, and daily life in Canada. Through these moments, a deeper need emerged: families wanted support understanding Canadian ingredients, local foods, and where to find familiar items in Sudbury. The project evolved to meet that need. In addition to cherished recipes, the cookbook now includes helpful information about Canadian ingredients, cooking tips, and local cultural markets.

Today, this cookbook is more than a collection of meals—it's a welcoming tool that helps newcomer families feel at home, preserves cultural traditions, and strengthens a sense of belonging as they begin their lives in Sudbury.



As of September 2025

YMCA John Island Camp

Chapel Point Dedicated to Celebrate Gary Gray's 25 Years of Impact at John Island Camp

Last summer, we proudly dedicated the newly renovated Chapel Point in honour of Gary Gray and his 25+ years of contributions to John Island. A true connector of campers, staff, and Directors, Gary has supported the community in countless ways—from campfire storytelling and baking treats, to maintaining the Alumni Newsletter, assisting with projects, and offering a calming presence around camp.

This special space was made possible thanks in part to the generosity of alumni and staff who contributed to its renovation. Special thanks also to the Rotary Club of Sudbury volunteers for helping bring it to life. We are grateful for Gary's lasting impact on the community.



 **491**
CAMPERS

 **8.6**
CAMP SATISFACTION SCORE

 **\$123,050**
IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Day Camp



Expanding Camp, Expanding Possibility

This year, we grew YMCA Day Camps by expanding into new communities while strengthening our existing programs. With the launch of camps in Elliot Lake and continued offerings in Espanola and East Ferris, even more children had the opportunity to experience programs that build confidence, leadership skills, and a foundation for a brighter, more transformative future.

We also enhanced access to programs by providing financial support to cover registration and supplies for those who need it most. New equipment and supplies, made possible in part thanks to funds from the YMCA Fill the Bus campaign, further enriched the camp experience for all participants.



 **2,523**
CAMPERS

 **8.1**
CAMP SATISFACTION SCORE

 **\$99,099**
IN FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Across YMCA of Northeastern Ontario programs as of September 2025

Child Care



YMCA St. Joseph Early Learning Child Care Centre Now Open in South Porcupine

The YMCA is proud to announce the opening of the St. Joseph Early Learning Child Care Centre in South Porcupine, a new addition to St. Joseph School. The centre offers 10 infant spaces, 15 toddler spaces, and 24 preschool spaces, complementing the existing YMCA school-age program on site.

This expansion provides more families with access to high-quality early learning and care and supports a seamless path for children from early years through elementary school, made possible through our partnership with St. Joseph School and the school board.



 **1,230**
CHILDREN IN CARE

 **25**
CENTRES

 **14**
HOME PROVIDERS

Across YMCA of Northeastern Ontario programs as of September 2025

Association

Building Stronger Communities Together in Northeastern Ontario

On May 21, 2025, YMCA Canada launched Communities That Thrive: The YMCA's Vision for a Stronger Tomorrow in Sudbury, hosted in partnership with the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario. The event brought together civic leaders, YMCA board members, staff, and regional partners to share stories of connection, collaboration, and impact. From health and wellness to belonging and emergency response, the day showcased how the YMCA helps people shine—physically, mentally, and socially.

A particularly moving moment highlighted a YMCA member whose life was saved by staff during a heart attack, illustrating the life-affirming and life-saving role of community spaces like the Y.

With more than 70 guests in attendance, the event emphasized the strength of community partnerships and the YMCA's ongoing commitment to making a meaningful difference across Northeastern Ontario.



635
STAFF

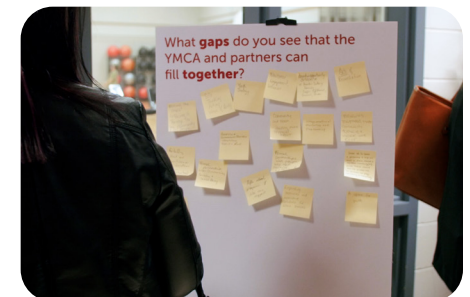


61
VOLUNTEERS



15,210
SERVED IN OUR COMMUNITIES

To view our Audited Financial Statements, please scan the QR code with your device.



Major Projects

Community Support Strengthens YMCA Spaces and Camp

In 2025, community generosity, volunteerism, and grant funding came together to strengthen YMCA spaces and John Island Camp across Northeastern Ontario. At John Island Camp, a \$199,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation and dedicated volunteers made key upgrades possible, including new roofs, a bunkie, and a generator—helping ensure the camp remains a safe and welcoming place for outdoor education and leadership development.

In Sudbury, a \$250,000 grant from the RBC Foundation will enhance YMCA changerooms with improved accessibility, safety, and lighting. In North Bay, donor support helped fund new fitness equipment, expanding access to health and wellness opportunities. Across the region, work is also underway on a new YMCA website that will make it easier to find programs, register, and learn about the Y's impact in our communities.

Together, these investments help create modern, inclusive spaces where people of all ages can connect, grow, and thrive.



Philanthropy



Where Community Support Makes an Impact

Across Northeastern Ontario, the YMCA's charitable purpose is brought to life through the generosity of donors, partners, and volunteers—strengthening healthier, more connected communities.

From annual golf tournaments in Sudbury, North Bay, and Timmins to region-wide campaigns and grassroots giving, charitable support helped remove financial barriers and open doors for people of all ages—ensuring more children and youth accessed YMCA programs, more families built healthy routines, and more individuals found belonging and support when they needed it most. The Fill the Bus campaign in Sudbury and North Bay once again demonstrated what community can achieve together. Funds raised supported program registration, ensured campers had essentials for summer adventure, and helped provide equipment and facility upgrades across the region.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the YMCA continues to be a safe space where people can grow, thrive, and connect. Every gift—big or small—contributes to a brighter, more accessible future for the communities we proudly serve across Northeastern Ontario.



\$1,465,189

RAISED THROUGH CHARITABLE INITIATIVES



600

DONORS & SPONSORS

To view our Digital Donor Wall, please scan the QR code with your device.



Across the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario as of September 2025

Land Acknowledgement

The YMCA of Northeastern Ontario recognizes that we operate on the traditional lands of Indigenous peoples, whose stewardship of these territories stretches back thousands of years. We honor the generations of people who have cared for this land and acknowledge their enduring connection.

Specifically, our work spans territories including:

- North Bay: traditional Anishinabek territory, home to the Nipissing and Dokis First Nations, under the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850, with rights affirmed by Section 35(1) of the Constitution Act, 1982.
- Sudbury: traditional and ancestral territory of the Anishinabek, including Atikameksheng and Wahnapiatae Nations, within the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.
- Timmins: Treaty 9 territory, traditional lands of Ojibwe/Chippewa, Mushkegowuk (Cree), Algonquin, and Métis Peoples.

We also recognize the contributions of Métis, Inuit, and other Indigenous peoples in shaping and strengthening our communities, province, and country.

This acknowledgment reflects our ongoing commitment to advancing Truth and Reconciliation and fostering respectful, inclusive communities across Northeastern Ontario.



Shine On

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