



YMCA of Yarmouth
275 Main Street, PO Box 86
Yarmouth, NS B5A 4B1
(902) 742-7181
www.ymcayarmouth.net

Tuesday March 24, 2020

Alain Muise
Chief Administrative Officer
Municipality of Argyle
27 Courthouse Road
Tusket, Nova Scotia B0W 3M0

Good afternoon Alain,

I am writing on behalf of the YMCA Board of Directors to request the Municipality of Argyle's ongoing support in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

As a community-based charity, our YMCA is facing an unprecedented challenge. Currently, most of the YMCA's employees have been laid-off, our location is closed, and all programs and services have been cancelled indefinitely.

This comes at a tremendous financial cost to the YMCA. Due to this government-mandated closure, the YMCA is no longer receiving revenue from program fees, membership payments, and rental fees from our external user groups. In addition, we have significant fixed costs associated with maintaining our facility and association infrastructure.

Our efforts are now focused on supporting our community throughout this crisis and sustaining our YMCA during the closure period. We have already reached out directly to the Nova Scotia Healthy Authority to offer our YMCA as a COVID-19 assessment centre and/or temporary shelter.

Once this crisis has passed, the community will need charities like the YMCA more than ever. We are eager to continue delivering health, fitness and aquatics programs, youth drop-in activities, day camps, medical rehabilitation programs, newcomer services and more.

In addition to contacting our municipal partners, the YMCA of Yarmouth is engaged in several provincial and national initiatives aimed at stabilizing our operations. Our YMCA national office has struck a COVID-19 Federal Government Relations Committee to advocate for financial supports for the charitable sector and specifically Canadian YMCAs which have been impacted by closures. In fact, YMCA Canada has provided a report to the Prime Minister's Office with anticipated losses for YMCAs across the country and expressed the need for charities and not-for-profits to be included in economic recovery plans.

Provincially, our YMCA's Atlantic Canada Regional Development Centre (RDC) has issued a letter to the Nova Scotia Provincial Government with the same focus. We are also in discussions with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) regarding funding opportunities.

We are investigating the 10% temporary wage subsidy for employees who continue to work at the YMCA during COVID-19 and we are determining our eligibility for the Business Credit Availability Program which provides support to organizations experiencing cash flow challenges due to COVID-19.

*Building healthy
communities*



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We are also in the early stages of developing a “Stay with Us” campaign which will ask our YMCA members to consider donating a portion of their uncollected membership fees back to our organization.

As the situation unfolds, we will be taking advantage of every opportunity to leverage federal and provincial funding to support our organization.

Today we are reaching out to the 3 municipal units to request a continuation of the YMCA’s annual funding at the levels provided during the 2019-2020 fiscal year. In addition, we are seeking one-time COVID-19 relief funding to assist us with stabilizing our operations during this unprecedented event.

While we are still in the process of financial forecasting, early estimates indicate a monthly revenue loss of \$ 60,000 and monthly fixed costs of approximately \$ 25,000. I anticipate having a more accurate analysis completed within the next week.

The YMCA would also like to reaffirm our support to you and your team as you navigate this challenging time. Please let us know if the YMCA can support any of your pandemic-related response plans.

I will contact you by telephone to further discuss this emerging situation.

Please accept our best wishes for the days and weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DM', with a small dot at the end of the stroke.

Darryl McKenzie
Chief Executive Officer (Interim)
YMCA of Yarmouth

CC: Chris Brown, Chair, YMCA of Yarmouth Board of Directors