



YMCA of Greater Toronto receives \$1 million BMO Financial Group gift toward *Strong Start, Great Future* Campaign

Donation will help bring more supportive YMCA programming to more communities across the GTA

TORONTO - May 4, 2017 – The [YMCA of Greater Toronto](#) celebrates another major philanthropic milestone in building and sustaining community health across the GTA with a \$1 million donation from [BMO Financial Group](#).

Steve C. Murphy, Senior Vice President, Greater Toronto Division, Personal and Commercial Banking, made the announcement on behalf of BMO Financial Group at a breakfast event hosted by the Mayor of Vaughan, Maurizio Bevilacqua, on May 3, 2017. Of BMO's philanthropic support, \$500,000 will directly support the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA, scheduled to open in 2019, and \$500,000 will benefit multiple new YMCA Centres of Community in development across the Greater Toronto Area.

"We are so very pleased to see an organization that we've supported for so long, continue to make positive change in our communities and to be a part of helping to make it a reality," said Steve Murphy, Senior Vice President, Greater Toronto Division, Personal and Commercial Banking, BMO Bank of Montreal. "Especially during our bicentennial year when legacy and looking forward are top of mind for the bank, we are confident our contribution, along with the great work and vision of the YMCA, will create a lasting impact for many members of the GTA."

With the population of the Greater Toronto Area expected to grow by more than 2.8 million people in the next 20 years, BMO's donation will help bring more vital YMCA programs and services to people who need them most.

"BMO Financial Group and the YMCA of Greater Toronto enjoy a long and valued partnership," said Diane Sinhuber, Chair of the Board, YMCA of Greater Toronto. "BMO's \$1 million contribution comes at a crucial time and moves us all forward in realizing our shared commitment to a healthier GTA. We are pleased to partner with BMO to improve the quality of life for everyone living in our communities."

In order to make a real difference in the health of communities across the GTA, the YMCA of Greater Toronto launched the [Strong Start, Great Future](#) Campaign, with a goal

to raise \$100 million in philanthropic donations, in order to build new YMCA Centres of Community across the GTA.

The new Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA is more than a gym. It's a Centre of Community — a diverse and socially inclusive place where everyone has the opportunity to get active, participate in important community programs, volunteer their time, and feel a connection to the support they need to thrive.

The opening of our new, 77,000 sq. ft. Vaughan YMCA location will expand our existing local programming to include a [YMCA Health and Fitness facility](#) with a large pool, gymnasium, fitness studios and community rooms, a new [YMCA Child Care](#), and more [YMCA Day Camps](#) programs — which will all contribute to the health of the residents of Vaughan.

In the last few years, the YMCA of Greater Toronto has opened the Vanauley Street YMCA, and the Cooper Koo Family Cherry Street YMCA. In addition to the Vaughan Metropolitan Centre YMCA, other YMCA projects currently in development include the Kingston Road YMCA, scheduled to open in 2018, and the McDonald Family Richmond Street YMCA, scheduled to open in 2020. Discussions are also underway for other projects, including the proposed Bridletowne Neighbourhood Centre in Scarborough's Steeles-L'Amaroux community, and a return to Etobicoke in the area of Kipling Avenue and Dundas Street West.

The YMCA will create safe, healthy and inclusive spaces within these communities, where individuals and families can access a variety of programs and services to help them reach their full potential.

The YMCA of Greater Toronto believes that if you give kids a **Strong Start**, they have a chance at a **Great Future** – and communities across the GTA will benefit from this investment today and for years to come.

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About the YMCA of Greater Toronto

For well over a century, we've provided leadership and worked with partners solving complex social problems to create real, measurable outcomes that have strengthened the social health and fabric of communities. As a charity, the YMCA offers a variety of programs responding to the needs of the community, including education and training, employment and immigrant services, family and youth services, health and fitness programs, child care and camps. Serving the population of the GTA, Durham, Peel, York, Halton Region and Dufferin County, last year the YMCA connected with more than 546,000 people across 409 locations. www.ymcagta.org

About BMO Financial Group

Established in 1817, and currently marking its 200th year of operations, BMO Financial Group is a highly diversified financial services provider based in North America. With total assets of \$692 billion as of January 31, 2017, and more than 45,000 employees, BMO provides a broad range of personal and commercial banking, wealth management and investment banking products and services to more than 12 million customers and conducts business through three operating groups: Personal and Commercial Banking, Wealth Management and BMO Capital Markets.