



MEDIA RELEASE

YMCA of Greater Toronto achieves accreditation from Imagine Canada's Standards Program

TORONTO - November 1, 2016 – The YMCA of Greater Toronto has been accredited under Imagine Canada's national [Standards Program](#). With this achievement, we join a growing community of more than 200 organizations dedicated to operational excellence.

"I am confident I speak for everyone across our Association when I say we are very proud of the work we do every day at the YMCA, and this accreditation demonstrates that dedication," says Medhat Mahdy, YMCA of Greater Toronto President and CEO. "In particular, I am proud of how we work with and engage our staff and volunteers – the heart of the YMCA of Greater Toronto."

The Standards Program is a Canada-wide set of shared standards for charities and non-profits designed to strengthen practices in five fundamental areas: board governance; financial accountability and transparency; fundraising; staff management; and volunteer involvement.

"It's no small feat for an organization to earn Standards Program accreditation," says Bruce MacDonald, President and CEO of Imagine Canada. "It's a rigorous, peer-reviewed process that is meant to build public trust and confidence in the charitable sector. These organizations take accountability and operational transparency very seriously. We're glad to have them on board."

As a charity tackling critical social health issues across the GTA, the YMCA of Greater Toronto offers children, teens, young adults and families the opportunity for personal growth, community involvement, and leadership. Our vision that our communities can and will be home to the healthiest children, teens and young adults inspires everything the YMCA of Greater Toronto does.

"We set very high standards for ourselves as an Association, especially when taking into consideration our [Strong Start, Great Future](#) Capital Campaign and the important programs and services we offer communities across the GTA," says Debbie Sevenpifer, YMCA of Greater Toronto Chief Financial Officer.

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Investment in Donor Trust

The goals of Imagine Canada's Standards Program are to increase the transparency of charities and nonprofits, and to strengthen public confidence in individual organizations and the sector as a whole. Trust is the foundation for what matters to us, our stakeholders and those who support us. Accredited organizations invest in what matters: trust.

Transparent, peer-review process

Our policies and procedures in the five areas of compliance were evaluated by a group of volunteers from the sector, and were found to be compliant with the Standards Program.

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