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Five Years Strong, a Safe Space for All: YMCA Moncton North Marks Fifth Anniversary

In 2020, as much of the world was shutting down, the YMCA Moncton North chose a different path. It slowly opened its doors to become a safe, welcoming space for the community when connection mattered more than ever.

Five years later, that decision continues to resonate. What began as a leap of faith during a global pandemic has grown into a vibrant community hub—a place where children show up not because they have to, but because they want to. A place where being yourself is not only accepted, but encouraged.

Recently, donors, partners, and community leaders gathered at the YMCA Moncton North to mark the milestone. Yet the true celebration was already happening all around them: youth arriving for Youth Connection programs, neighbors completing their daily loops on the free walking track, the joyful sounds of children playing in the splash park, and the steady rhythm of a space that has truly found its place in the community.

The original vision was simple yet powerful—to create a place where people could connect, grow, and belong. Today, thousands of individuals pass through its doors each year, drawn by inclusive programs that meet people where they are, and support them at every stage of life.

Eva Reutov, Primary Youth Worker for Back On Track program, sees this impact firsthand every day. “Every day for me has been incredibly rewarding,” she shared. “Back On Track is more than just a youth learning program. It is a safe space for youths of all backgrounds, diversity, and gender identities. It is a place where young people are encouraged to be themselves and express themselves if they feel the need.”

That commitment to youth programs rooted in acceptance rather than conformity has defined the YMCA Moncton North since its earliest days.



Eva Reutov, Primary Youth Worker - Back on Track



It is what donors believed in, what partners rallied behind, and what the community continues to value most.

Zane Korytko, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Moncton, credits the clarity of purpose that guided the centre from the start: “From day one, the North End community knew what they wanted. Thanks to our donors, the City of Moncton, the Province of New Brunswick, and the Federal Government, we made it happen. The North End Y proves what’s possible when a community shows up.”

Five years in, the community is still showing up—together, stronger, and shining on.



YMCA PEACE Week 2025: A Community United in Kindness

PEACE Week at the YMCA of Greater Moncton showed that peace is built together. Members, staff, youth, and partners explored the meaning of PEACE: **Participation, Empathy, Advocacy, Community, and Empowerment**, through creative activities and shared conversations.

Children in childcare and afterschool programs expressed what peace means to them through stories and hands-on learning, reminding us that kindness is where peace begins. Youth in the Youth Transitions and Back on Track programs reflected on PEACE through conversation and a collaborative art piece, sharing themes of safety, belonging, and hope. For them, PEACE is something lived every day.

Senior Director of Community Outreach Whitney Benjamin highlighted how Outreach programs bring PEACE to life through street outreach, crisis response, and supportive housing, meeting people with compassion. At the Hub, the Positivi-Tree became a symbol of encouragement, filled with messages showing that small acts matter.

YMCA staff shared how they foster peace by creating welcoming spaces rooted in acceptance and equality.

Together, our community continues to shine on through PEACE.

Honoring Lives Lost, Holding Hope Together



On **December 18**, the community gathered at Victoria Park to honour the lives lost in 2025 while experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, or struggles with addiction. Hosted by **YMCA ReConnect** in partnership with local churches, the memorial created a safe and caring space to pause, remember, and grieve together.

Families, friends, frontline workers, and community members stood side by side in quiet reflection. Shared words and moments of silence reminded us that every life mattered and every person was deeply valued.

As each names were read and held close in our hearts, the gathering became more than remembrance. It was an act of compassion and connection. Together, we honoured those we lost and reaffirmed our commitment to care for one another, to lead with empathy, and to keep showing up for our community.

Building Community Across Borders



Last October, the YMCA of Greater Moncton had the pleasure of welcoming Angela and Natalia from YMCA Risaralda, celebrating a global partnership rooted in over 20 years of trust, shared learning, and mutual respect. This longstanding relationship reflects our commitment to strengthening communities—locally and globally.

YMCA Risaralda's inspiring leadership in peacebuilding, gender equity, youth empowerment, and human rights continues to inform and enrich our work here at home.

Through meaningful activities and shared experiences, their visit highlighted the power of connection and collaboration. Together, YMCA of Greater Moncton and YMCA Risaralda remain united by one mission: building stronger, safer, and more inclusive communities. It's global friendship, YMCA style—because we are GREATER TOGETHER.



Nominations Open for YMCA PEACE Medal



Peace Medal nominations now open!



Every community has people who quietly make it stronger. They lead with empathy, show up for others, and create change through everyday actions. The YMCA of Greater Moncton wants to recognize those individuals through the annual YMCA PEACE Medal.

The PEACE Medal honours people who embody Participation, Empathy, Advocacy, Community, and Empowerment. This year, three awards will be presented in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Community Wellbeing; and Inspiring Young Leader. Recipients will be celebrated this fall.

Know someone making a difference? Nominations close February 13, 2026. Submit a nomination at <https://forms.office.com/r/Afuf1aBMC7>

Upcoming Events and Celebrations

January

- 17 to 24 - MOSSA Launch Week
- 21 - YMCA of Greater Moncton 156th Anniversary

February

- Black History Month
- 14 - Valentine's Day
- 16 - Family Day
- 17 - Lunar New Year

March

- 6 - National Employee Appreciation Day
- 14 - YMCA Battle of the Brains
- 20 - First Day of Spring



Community Steps Up: \$20,130 Raised for Together for Tomorrow

The YMCA of Greater Moncton's Together for Tomorrow campaign showed what's possible when a community comes together. Thanks to generous members, donors, and corporate sponsors, \$20,130 was raised to support impactful YMCA programs across Greater Moncton. Together, we're building a healthier, more inclusive community.

 



January 24 janvier
 Saturday | Samedi
 2:00 to 4:00 pm | de 14 h à 16 h
 Parc Lewisville Park

BLOCK PARTY  **FÊTE DE QUARTIER**

WINTER MOBILE FUN!
 Lewisville Park
 January 24, 2026 | 2:00 to 4:00PM

Get Ready to Think Fast: YMCA's Battle of the Brains Is Back!



Form a Team to Compete or Join Us in Supporting the Event!

March 14, 2026
 YMCA VAUGHAN HARVEY,
 30 WAR Veterans, Moncton

ANY QUESTIONS?

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