

A photograph of a woman holding a baby. The baby is crying and has its hand near its face. The woman is looking up at the baby. The background is a warm, orange-hued sunset or sunrise scene with a building visible in the distance.

YWCA BC

Impact Report

Fiscal Year 2025/26

This past year was one of growth, momentum and impact at YWCA BC, grounded in our commitment to advance gender equity through action.

With your support, we embraced an important milestone by changing our name from YWCA Metro Vancouver to YWCA BC. This reflects the reach of our impact to communities like Kelowna and Prince George, and our vision for the future as we offer programs across BC.

We also continued to advance our five-year strategic plan, **Forward with Purpose**, making meaningful progress while staying true to our vision, mission and values. Highlights include launching new employment programs—NextStep and Higher Ground—opening five new housing communities, and continuing to nurture our social enterprises, the newly renamed Hotel Willo and YWCA Health & Fitness Club.

Our goal of **leading in participant-centred, integrated programs and services** led us to begin developing our Impact Framework. This new approach will help us use data and storytelling to better understand how

our dozens of programs and services contribute to our vision and mission while helping participants achieve their goals.

YWCA City Shift, funded by Women and Gender Equality Canada, is an amazing example of our goal to **inspire transformational systems and culture change through education and advocacy**. Through our first-ever Peer-Centred Advocacy Council, 21 single mothers learned how they can influence policy, raise awareness and advocate for systemic change.

Our third goal—**uniting as an inclusive, responsive and thriving organization**—drove us to advance our Archives Project, with the aim of better understanding, acknowledging and addressing our complicity in historic and current colonial practices.

As you read this report, you'll see these three strategic goals coming to life through our programs, services and advocacy. None of this would be possible without you, our community of partners, volunteers and donors. Together, we're seeing lasting change in our communities.



Michelle Cooper-Iversen

Michelle Cooper-Iversen
Board Chair, YWCA BC

Erin Seeley

Erin Seeley
CEO, YWCA BC



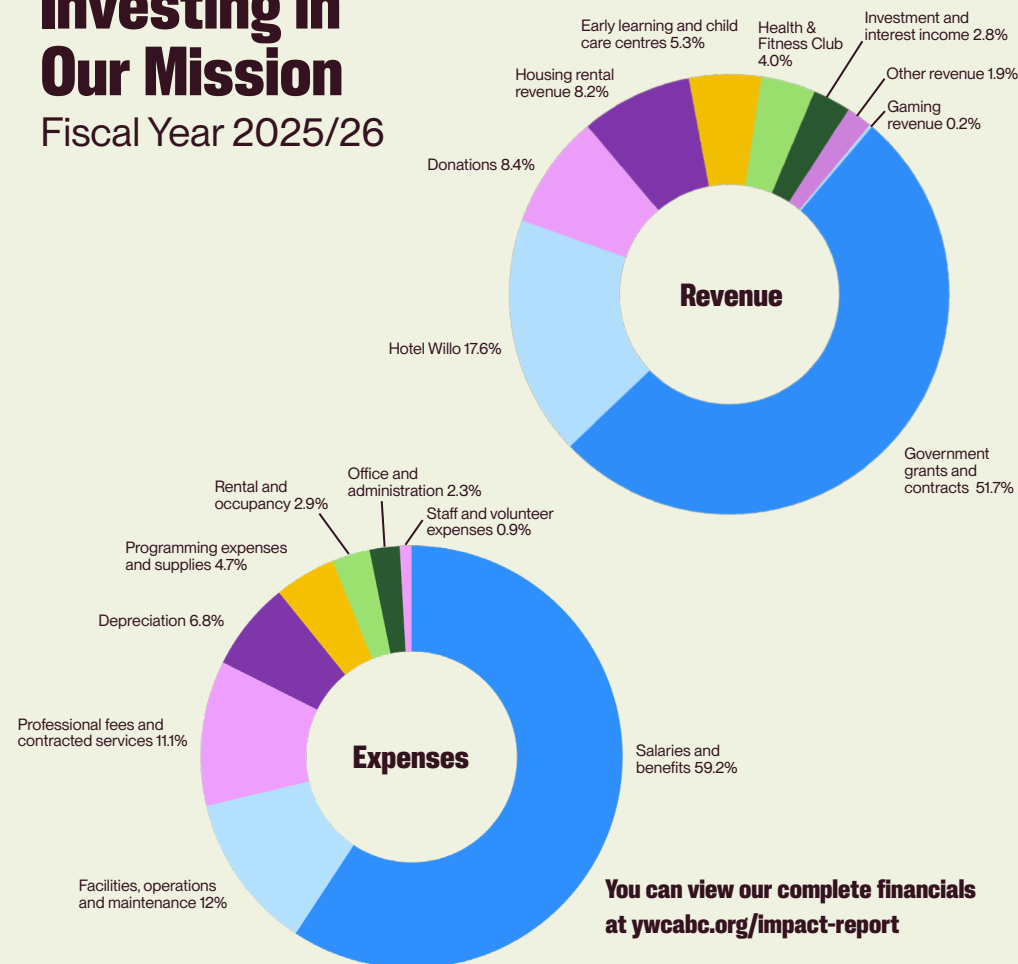
Social Enterprises

Our social enterprises, **Hotel Willo** and **YWCA Health & Fitness Club**, generate just over 20% of the YWCA's revenues, fuelling our ability to respond quickly to emerging needs and invest in programs that make a lasting difference. Each with a new name, they continue to deliver exceptional service while strengthening our community.



Investing in Our Mission

Fiscal Year 2025/26



YWCA Housing 'A Home to Call Our Own'

For Mallory and her three young children, choosing to leave an abusive relationship was a financial decision. Without an affordable place to live, moving felt impossible.

"I was stuck because I couldn't afford to live on my own," she said.

After connecting to the YWCA, Mallory secured temporary, transitional housing where she also had access to supportive programs and free child care at YWCA Crabtree Corner.

She and her children then moved to long-term housing at YWCA Left Field, one of our newest housing communities that opened in early 2026.

"It's been amazing. My kids are really happy that we finally have a home to call our own," she said. "Now that I have secured affordable rent, I can start focusing on our future."

YWCA BC operates 504 homes in 21 housing communities across Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley. There are three communities under construction.

The YWCA Housing Action Fund enables us to quickly pursue new housing opportunities when they arise. Learn more at ywcabc.org/housing-action-fund

Nearly half of children in lone-parent households in BC live in poverty, with high housing costs disproportionately impacting these families. Yet we know housing is a critical foundation for single moms and their children to build safe, secure futures.

In 2025-2026, with incredible support from donors and government, we opened five new housing communities: YWCA Cindy Beedie Place (Burnaby), YWCA Marion's Place (Burnaby), YWCA Left Field (Vancouver), YWCA Harbour Grove (Vancouver) and YWCA Peggy Mackenzie Terrace (Langley). Together, these new communities created 213 more safe homes for women, single mothers and their children. All residents are connected to YWCA programs and services to support their overall well-being.



YWCA Single Mothers' Support Services Connection, Strength, Community

When Erica first walked into a YWCA Single Mothers' Support Group after leaving an abusive relationship with her three children, she was looking for a meal and a break.

"That group completely changed my life. It gave me connection, strength and a sense of community I didn't know I needed," she said.

YWCA Single Mothers' Support Services bring moms together in weekly meetings where they can build bonds, develop financial literacy skills and share resources.

Erica received a YWCA Scholarship and is now pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher.

"The YWCA gave me the support, hope and opportunity I never thought I'd have again," she said. "I walked in for a meal and a break. I left with a future."

In 2025,

618 mothers and their children took part in 19 YWCA Single Mothers' Support Groups.

YWCA Child Care Supporting Whole Families

Access to quality, affordable child care is one of the most tangible ways to advance gender equity, empowering women to enter or return to the workforce.

Along with advocating for more affordable child care, YWCA BC operated four early learning and child care centres in 2025. Three of these centres are \$10-a-day sites. The fourth offers free, short-term care for families in the Downtown Eastside. In 2026, we opened our fifth early learning and child care

centre, YWCA xʷəp̓əq̓əyasəm, at YWCA Cindy Beedie Place. We are grateful to many incredible donors including Cindy Beedie, her friends and ChildCareBC's New Spaces Fund for funding this new centre. We are also grateful to the Musqueam Indian Band for gifting us this name, which means "Place of Butterflies" in hən̓q̓əmiḥəm.

In 2025,

193 children received quality care at YWCA early learning and child care centres.

YWCA Crabtree Corner Support for All Ages

At YWCA Crabtree Corner on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, our hub model comes to life. In one building, people of all ages build community and access multiple services like housing, family and parenting programs, free early learning and child care, nutritious meals, cultural and Indigenous programming, and more.

"All the people who work here are very kind. They help us with the challenges of motherhood. It's difficult for me because I don't have family in Canada. Crabtree Corner is my family," says Alba, who has participated in several Crabtree Corner programs.

Volunteering Actions that Transform Communities

Volunteers are essential to the YWCA's impact, bringing expertise, leadership and commitment to the organization.

In 2025, Crabtree Corner

Offered 19 programs for participants ranging from infants to seniors.

Served 48,515 free meals through food programs.

Welcomed 83 children in our free drop-in child care centre.

In 2025,

737 individuals logged 25,270 volunteer hours with the YWCA including:

39 corporate groups that gave back through hands-on projects.

1,200+ pounds of produce harvested for Crabtree's Community Kitchen.

YWCA Employment 'Meaningful Support'

Having access to stable employment can have life-changing impacts for families. That's why YWCA BC's employment programs support people across ages, experiences and cultures to gain new skills and build the confidence to pursue work and further education. In 2025, we launched two new employment programs: YWCA Higher Ground (funded by the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation in conjunction with Seaspan to support women entering the skilled trades) and YWCA NextStep (funded by BC's Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction to support youth on their career journeys).

"The opportunity to learn about different trades, receive individualized guidance and access meaningful support helped me build confidence and clarity about my career path." —Marina, YWCA Higher Ground participant

In 2025,

1,529 job seekers received career support through 17 specialized YWCA programs.

5,488 people accessed job search assistance through YWCA-operated WorkBC Centres.



Advocating for Change

Bold, systemic change is needed to ensure everyone has equitable access to safe, affordable housing, child care, training and employment, and freedom from violence and discrimination. YWCA BC works alongside communities to advance equity and justice for women and families, people who experience gender discrimination, and Indigenous Peoples.

In 2025, 21 alumni from YWCA Single Mothers' Support Services participated in our 18-month peer advocacy program, gaining skills, knowledge and support to influence policy, raise awareness and advocate for systemic change.

"If I can be a voice for somebody, if one idea I have helps make any kind of change, that would be worth it." —YWCA Peer-Centred Advocacy Council Member

Advancing Truth and Reconciliation

In 2025, we continued advancing our Archives Project to better understand our role in colonial and assimilation practices. The project is guided by our Strong Women Healing Together Circle, including matriarchs from Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, representatives from the urban Indigenous community, and our Indigenous Initiatives team.

At our third annual Rhythms of Resilience event in recognition of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, more than 300 community members joined us to honour Survivors and to remember the children who never came home.



We respectfully acknowledge that our main office is located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Skw̓xwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwəta4 (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, and that our work across British Columbia spans the territories of more than 200 First Nations. We also acknowledge

Charitable Registration No. 108227943 RR0001

535 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC V6C 2E8

604 895 5800

ywcabc.org