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OPPORTUNITY PROFILE

YMCA Canada

National Board Director



About YMCA Canada

<https://www.ymca.ca/>

YMCA Canada is the national office of the YMCA in Canada, a federation of 37 autonomous community-based charitable organizations. The YMCA is a charity that has been helping Canadians improve their lives since the first Y opened in Montreal in 1851. YMCA programs are offered at more than 1,700 locations across Canada and help people become healthier in spirit, mind, and body.

Quick Facts about the YMCA in Canada:

- YMCAs in Canada served over 2 million people annually, including 1.35 million children, teens, and young adults, at 1,700 service locations.
- 20% of children attending YMCA health & fitness programs are receiving financial assistance, ensuring that they can develop an active and healthy lifestyle that will benefit them throughout their entire lives.
- 12,500 volunteers shared their time and talents to help others and brighten their community
- 62,088 children had a healthy start with YMCA child care.
- The YMCA is the first stop for many new immigrants and refugees settling in our country. YMCAs help newcomers establish roots in their new community and connect with a wide range of community services, all aimed at helping them access the resources they need to start a new life here.
- Around the world, the YMCA serves over 60 million people, with 12,000 locations across more than 120 countries. 24 Canadian YMCAs are engaged with 16 YMCAs internationally across 14 countries located in Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean.



The Role: Board Director

Working in partnership with the Board Chair and the President & CEO, National Board Directors play a pivotal role in advancing the growth and cohesion of the YMCA across Canada. They contribute to strengthening local capacity by setting national direction, supporting effective governance, and ensuring the organization's work is guided by principles of accountability, collaboration, openness, and proactive leadership. Through this stewardship, Directors help position the YMCA to respond to emerging needs and enhance its impact across diverse communities.

National Board Directors are elected for a three-year term by the YMCA National Council, the federation's senior legislative and policy body with representation from each Member Association. The Board meets quarterly, with three meetings typically held in Toronto and one hosted by a different Canadian community, offering Directors meaningful opportunities to engage with the YMCA's work across the country.

Skills & Experience

To support YMCA Canada in *helping communities shine* and in strengthening the capacity of local YMCAs to better serve the people and places they support, the Nominations Committee is seeking Board nominees who bring one or more of the following skill sets. Candidates who are currently undertaking professional development or formal education related to these skill areas are also welcome for consideration.

- **Technology** – Brings expertise in digital strategy, data and systems oversight, and technology-enabled transformation to strengthen organizational effectiveness and governance.
- **Investment** – Provides strong financial acumen, investment oversight, and risk management capability to support prudent fiduciary decision-making and long-term sustainability.
- **Finance** – Financial oversight and strategic fiscal management — including budgeting, risk assessment, and long-term sustainability planning — to ensure the organization remains financially healthy and accountable



- Legal - Legal and governance expertise to support compliance, contractual review, policy guidance, and risk mitigation, enabling the board to make sound, well-informed decisions within regulatory frameworks.

Diversity Goals

YMCAs are committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, anti-racism, and truth and reconciliation processes. The YMCA recognizes that it is vitally important for National Board directors to represent the communities the YMCA serves. The YMCA is intentionally seeking to recruit nominees who are members of communities that are currently underrepresented on YMCA Boards across the Federation: Indigenous Peoples; Members of the Black community; Racialized communities; 2SLGBTQIA+ folks; disabled persons/persons with disabilities. YMCA Canada will be asking candidates to complete a self-identification survey after indication of interest.

Responsibilities of a National Board Director

The National Board is comprised of volunteers. Directors are expected to:

- Work with fellow board directors to fulfill the obligations of board membership.
- Act in a way that contributes to the effective operation of the National Board.
- Regularly attend and participate in quarterly board meetings held over two days, generally in Toronto. One meeting may be held in another Canadian location.
- Attend the National Council Annual General Meeting.
- Be a member of a committee or task group which meets in conjunction with Board meetings or

virtually between meetings.

- May be asked to represent YMCA Canada at internal and external events.

Express Your Enthusiasm

Email a convincing cover letter and tailored resume (PDF or Word) to **John Dugdale** at apply@leadersinternational.com, indicating the job title in the subject line of the email.

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