

*For Immediate Release*

October 6, 2020

**YMCA of Saskatoon invites you to Build community. Act for peace.**

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan – From November 14-21, the YMCA of Saskatoon, together with YMCAs across Canada, celebrate the presence of peace in our communities, and reflect on the peace-building work that happens all year both inside and outside the YMCA.

YMCA Peace Week offers activities that help children, youth and adults explore peace from personal, community and global perspectives. Collectively, YMCAs in Canada ask people to: ***Build community. Act for peace.***

More than the absence of violence and conflict, peace is the ongoing work of building and maintaining conditions of fairness, inclusion, empathy, security, and respect for diversity. Peace-building is core to the YMCA's commitment to strengthening the foundation of healthy communities and part of the YMCA of Saskatoon's year-round programs.

According to the 1981 World Alliance of YMCAs Statement on Peace,

"...Peace has many dimensions. It is not only a state of relationships among nations. We cannot expect to live in a world of peace if we are unable to live in peace with those close to us – even those who differ from us...The responsibility for peace begins with each person, in relationship with family and friends, and extends to community life and national activities..."

This Statement is relevant today more than ever.

"It's important that we work together to create peaceful communities where everyone feels that they belong" says Dean Dodge, CEO at the YMCA of Saskatoon "By celebrating YMCA Peace Week together, we are taking a stand and creating the future we want for our community, country and world."

When people act for peace, they build community by promoting a sense of belonging, fostering empathy and embracing diversity.

"We all have opportunities each day to choose to act for peace. They may be small actions, but they make a big difference and create a ripple effect through our community. By sharing our message of peace, we are able to inspire others to become engaged in peaceful actions," says Serena Dallas, Marketing & Philanthropy Director

A special highlight of this week is the presentation of the YMCA Peace Medal to an individual or group who, without any special resources, demonstrates a commitment to peace through individual contributions made within their local, national or global community. This year's

ceremony will be held during our Virtual AGM on November 18<sup>th</sup> and will honour up to two local community members who have made significant contributions towards peace-building.

During these unprecedented times, the YMCA remains committed to building healthy communities through programs like these. As a charity, the Y needs help, now more than ever, to continue to serve our communities with innovative and necessary initiatives. Visit [www.ymcasaskatoon.org/donate](http://www.ymcasaskatoon.org/donate) to make a donation and help the YMCA continue to respond to the needs of our community.

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For further information, please contact:

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## Peace Medal Recipient Nomination Form



### YMCA of Saskatoon Peace Medal Nomination Form

#### About the YMCA Peace Medal

Each year, YMCAs across Canada celebrate acts of peace by recognizing individuals and groups who, without any special resources, status, wealth or position, have demonstrated a commitment to building peace within their community or communities elsewhere in the world. During YMCA Peace Week, which will take place from **November 14-21, 2020**, local peacemakers will receive special recognition and a medal at Peace Medal ceremonies across Canada. Peacemakers are selected through a nomination process. To nominate a Peacemaker, please review the selection principles and complete the enclosed nomination form.

#### Nomination Guidelines

- Nominations should focus on activities that have taken place within the last two years
- YMCA staff members are not eligible for nomination
- Professionals who are paid to do peacemaking work are not eligible for nomination
- Self-nominations will not be considered

#### Peacemaker Selection Criteria

“...Peace has many dimensions. It is not only a state of relationships among nations. We cannot expect to live in a world of peace if we are unable to live in peace with those close to us – even those who differ from us....The responsibility for peace begins with each person, in relationship with family and friends, and extends to community life and national activities...”

YMCA Statement of Peace, World Alliance of YMCAs, 1981

Peace Medal recipients should demonstrate the **values of PEACE**:

- P = Participation** – getting involved and encouraging others to get involved in community-building activities
- E = Empathy** – listening and understanding diverse perspectives to create a sense of belonging for all
- A = Advocacy** – making the case for positive change in the community
- C = Community** – building and strengthening community connections and capacity
- E = Empowerment** – inspiring others to foster peace and helping them gain the skills and tools to succeed

Please submit all completed Peace Medal nominations to the address below by 5 pm on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

YMCA of Saskatoon

Serena Dallas

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## Peace Medal Recipient Nomination Form



### Nomination Questions

Provide a brief history of the organization or group. *For group nominations only.*

How has the nominee inspired you and others through their acts of peace?

How does the nominee demonstrate the YMCA values of PEACE? Please refer specifically to the values of PEACE acronym.

What is the impact of the nominee's peacemaking work on the local, national, or global community?

Describe any collaboration between the nominee and other groups and individuals.