



YMCA of Saskatoon

GROWTH FAQ

General FAQ

Q. How is the Y doing during these challenging times?

A. Thankfully the Y is doing well. That is due to our generous donors, the Federal and Provincial supports for wages and operating subsidies for childcare, and a strong Board and leadership team. Since March of 2020 we have been fortunate to have added new services including the Saskatoon Early Years Family Resource Centre, a new Childcare in Brighton, and new schools for our before and after school program.

Q. How is the Y doing with its "fitness" memberships?

A. We have been down to as low as 20% of our normal membership numbers in the last two years. Right now, in the fall of 2021, we are closer to 55% of our normal membership, but we are needing more people to support us. We have over 700 Y members who are on Special membership holds and are waiting to come back when the time is right for them. We want those people to know that they are very important to the long-term survivability of the Y.

Q. How will the Y be sustainable for the future? Will the Y "bounce back?"

A. We need to ensure that we are making the best short- and long-term decisions for our Y and community. This means investing in the right areas, the right staff, and the right programs. We know that Y's that have a varied range of services, like ours, do better in the long run. Another important piece of a Y's sustainability is the ability to adapt and partner with other groups to everyone's benefit.

Q. Is the YMCA exploring partnerships with the City?

A. We are planning for future growth, and it just makes sense to have partnerships that benefit not only the Y, but our whole community. We have over 40 current partnerships and they allow each group to become stronger. We are looking at a number of models based on other YMCA and municipal partnerships.

Q. Why does the YMCA want to explore partnering with the city?

A. Based on over 40 years of YMCA and City partnerships throughout Canada it makes sense to explore a partnership here. By partnering we can evaluate how each organization can provide the needed services in a sustainable way. This sort of partnership allows the entire community to benefit and is a win/win for everyone involved.



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Q. What does the YMCA want out of the partnership? (What is the end goal?)

A. Our end goal is to help more people lead healthy and active lives. The model we are pursuing to meet that goal is to have two locations for the YMCA of Saskatoon to offer health, fitness, and community programs. We know that Saskatoon is growing and needs change so we are actively looking into how to meet these needs in the Downtown and in the Brighton/Holmwood areas of Saskatoon

Q. How will this impact me as a member/partner/community group?

A. We want to ensure that existing members' voices will be heard and then be able to have access to even more services and programs for them and their families in the future. YMCA members are members of the wider community and we know that we can contribute to how many people live healthy lives, how they connect socially, and in making a difference in their community.

Q. Why does my support matter?

A. Your support matters because as a member or community partner this means these decisions directly affect you and how in the future you could use the YMCA. Your letters of support, your testimonials of what the Y means to you, and even the photographs you share make an impact to let our community know this is a place of learning, a place of exercise, and a place of community.



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East (Brighton/Holmwood Project)

Q. Will partner groups like Squash/Racquetball/Judo still have access to space if a second Y was built?

A. We definitely hope so. Right now, this is about including all our partner groups in genuine conversations about community needs and this is where your feedback on how the YMCA affects your ability to offer programs.

Q. How much will this cost us?

A. We are still in the preliminary stages and costs have not been formalized. When we move to the next stages we will be providing an update to our membership.

Q. Which organization would be responsible for employing staff in a new centre located in Brighton/Holmwood?

A. In the model that we are researching the YMCA would be responsible for the operation of a new centre in the East area. This new centre would result in additional positions and would not take any positions away from any YMCA or city staff person. The majority of our programs are delivered by paid staff and we recognize that the YMCA has greatly benefitted from the involvement of community volunteers to give the gift of their time and expertise in the delivery of some programs like adult fitness classes and martial arts classes.

In the last eight years, the YMCA has added over 120 jobs to Saskatoon and surrounding communities. These are a mix of part-time and full-time, entry-level, professional-level, and management level. The YMCA is committed to being a valued driven employer that reflects the diversity in our community.



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Downtown

Q. Is the YMCA going to close or move from its current location?

A. In early May of 2022 the city of Saskatoon formally announced the partnership with the YMCA and the East Community (Brighton/Holmwood). Some of the reporting from various news outlets incorrectly stated or “alluded” that this meant that the downtown location was sold. This is not the case. We are currently exploring every option right now. If and when we reach the decision on the downtown location, this will be communicated with Members directly from the YMCA Board & CEO.

Q. How much will a new or refurbished Y cost us?

A. Again, at this time we have not entered any agreements for costs. We do know however that the cost for a brand new building of a Y would exceed over 20 million and a refurbished Y would be in the area of three to 10 million (approximately - and these are simply estimates) would cost.