



News Release

June 3, 2019

YMCA of Eastern Ontario Closes YMCA West as it Looks to the Future

KINGSTON, ON – The YMCA of Eastern Ontario today announced that it will be closing its location on Progress Avenue in Kingston effective August 16, 2019.

This decision has been the subject of long deliberations by the board and senior staff considering a myriad of factors that impact the viability of the branch, including the significant increase in competition in the local fitness market. There was no single deciding factor.

“We value the trust we have earned in the community, and we know that our loyal YMCA West members will be disappointed to hear this news, however, as we look toward the future, this decision brings us one step closer to building a new centrally located facility,” said Rob Adams, CEO of Eastern Ontario. “As a charity, we are committed to making responsible decisions, and focusing our resources where we can make the most difference in serving children, youth and families in our community.”

The decision to close YMCA West was based on the viability of this location for the YMCA as a charity. The Y is always looking for new ways to reach more people and help them grow in spirit, mind and body, and is already exploring new partnerships.

“Our recent amalgamation with the YMCA of Brockville Area to become the YMCA of Eastern Ontario allows us to expand our services to children, youth and families in areas where there are currently no YMCA services. We have recently begun to offer after school care services and summer camp programs in Gananoque, for example,” said Adams.

YMCA West serves approximately 1,750 members who will be offered a special discount to continue their memberships, using either the St. Lawrence College or Wright Crescent locations. The full-time staff at YMCA West will move to one of the other Kingston locations. In addition, the YMCA is working with the specialty group fitness instructors, lifeguards, front desk and cleaning staff and volunteers to ensure continued opportunities at the YMCA for as many as possible.

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