



## STATEMENT OF PARTNERSHIP

BETWEEN THE  
**ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS (AFN) / NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD**  
AND  
**YMCA CANADA**



### INTRODUCTION

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is the national First Nations organization.

The AFN is committed to strengthening First Nation families and communities, advocating for the respect and recognition of First Nations' rights, advancing economic and environmental interests, supporting First Nation governments and nation-building, and strengthening and stabilizing First Nation governments and communities.

YMCA Canada is the national office for a federation of 45 YMCAs and 8 YMCA-YWCA charities in Canada, dedicated to the growth of all persons in spirit, mind and body, and in a sense of responsibility to each other and the global community.

The purpose of this Statement of Partnership is to facilitate and encourage cooperation between the AFN and YMCA Canada with the goal of strengthening relationships between First Nation governments, regional First Nation and treaty organizations, First Nation citizens, and YMCAs and YMCA-YWCAs across Canada.

The AFN and YMCA Canada agree to work together towards enhancing individual and community capacity and well-being with a particular focus on creating opportunities for First Nation children, teens and young adults through access to education, leadership and recreation, among other benefits.

The AFN-YMCA partnership also focuses on promoting healthy lifestyles, in conjunction with the AFN's IndigenAction initiative.

The AFN-YMCA partnership fosters a sense of social responsibility among and between their communities, enhancing institutional capacity through sharing information that might facilitate cooperation at the community or neighbourhood level, and in building the culture, tools and techniques for fundraising, particularly to jointly build recreation infrastructure and foster leadership development. The AFN and YMCA hold a specific interest on an urban agenda for the inclusion of First Nation people.

### PRINCIPLES

The AFN and YMCA Canada are committed to strengthening community well-being, promoting healthy living, and enhancing the potential of all children in Canada but with a special interest in and focus on First Nation children and youth.

AFN and YMCA Canada share a common interest in facilitating dialogue and cooperation on the local and regional levels between First Nation governments and YMCA and YMCA-YWCAs, as well as between First Nation citizens and YMCA and YMCA-YWCAs.

### OBJECTIVES

The AFN and YMCA Canada hereby affirm their mutual intent to:

1. Support long-term and sustainable cooperation between the AFN and the Canadian YMCA movement.
2. Enhance institutional capacity at the regional and local levels through partnerships, programming, training, and skills development

### COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITY

The AFN and YMCA Canada will prepare a joint work plan that identifies specific activities drawn from the following priority areas: employment and internships, education, youth leadership development, health and wellness, sport and recreation, child care and after school programming, facility operation and joint facility development, family services, and capacity development.

AFN and YMCA Canada representatives will provide progress reports on work plans established to support the implementation of the Statement of Partnership. This may be accomplished through:

- a) Quarterly meetings
- b) Collaboration on initiatives
- c) Cooperation on public policy issues
- d) Corporate fundraising

The AFN and YMCA Canada will involve and seek the guidance of their respective constituencies, boards, partners and experts to support initiatives that respect First Nations' principles and values and are compatible to each organization's mandate.

The results of this work will be reported on, at a minimum, once per year to the Chiefs-in-Assembly and YMCA Canada's Board of Directors.

### GENERAL

Discussions pursuant to this Statement of Partnership are intended to enhance and support capacity building processes and opportunities and are without prejudice to, and not intended to replace or supersede any existing initiative between any First Nation or YMCA and YMCA-YWCA and other key stakeholders, nor restrict either party's ability to participate in similar activities with other organizations or individuals.

This Statement of Partnership represents a statement of general intention on the part of the parties and is intended solely to provide a framework for implementing the relationship described herein, and does not itself create legally enforceable rights or obligations for either party or its members and is not a legally binding agreement.

This Statement of Partnership imposes no specific financial responsibilities on the parties. However, each party will be responsible for any costs it incurs through its participation in this Statement of Partnership. Any specific work projects or implementation activity involving the contribution of funds, dedicated human or other resources shall require the execution of a formal Agreement outlining the obligations, terms and conditions to be determined and mutually agreed to by the parties.

The actions contemplated in this Statement of Partnership will begin upon signing.

AFN or YMCA Canada may amend this document in writing at any time by mutual consent of both parties.

Either the AFN or YMCA Canada may terminate this Statement of Partnership at any time upon the delivery of 30 days written notice to the other party. This Statement of Partnership will be in effect for two years from the signing date and may be extended or amended by mutual agreement in writing upon expiry of the two-year period.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of December, 2010 by authorized representatives of the parties to this Statement of Partnership:

Assembly of First Nations

YMCA Canada

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo, National Chief

Martin J. Reynolds, Chair of the Board