

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

At the YMCA of Oakville, community is at the heart of everything we do. For us, community means more than a location—it's a "third [place/space]" beyond home, school, and work where people come together, connect, and belong. The YMCA experience transcends bricks and mortar, creating the places where individuals of all ages and backgrounds find opportunities to build relationships, strengthen their health and wellbeing, and feel part of something bigger than themselves.

Yet, we know that many people in Oakville are facing real challenges today: increasing isolation, unemployment and underemployment, declining physical and mental health, insecurity around food and housing, rising costs of living, inequity and systemic barriers, and the growing impacts of climate change. These challenges weigh heavily on individuals and families, and they affect the health of our community as a whole.

The YMCA wants to be part of the solution. As we look ahead to our next strategic plan, we are committed to creating opportunities that address these pressing issues and strengthen our community. Our focus will be on:

- Creating pathways to meaningful work and volunteerism
- Fostering a true sense of belonging, access, and inclusion
- Expanding early childhood education
- Supporting health and wellbeing for all ages
- Engaging and empowering youth through leadership and employment opportunities
- Providing mental health supports
- Offering charitable assistance to those who need it most
- Building alliances and partnerships that amplify impact
- Modelling sustainable practices and caring for our environment

Together, we can ensure the YMCA continues to be a place where Oakville thrives—a place where people come not only to better themselves, but to build a stronger, healthier, more connected community. We invite you to join us on this journey as we shape the future of the YMCA and the community we serve.



Kyle Barber



Eileen McCormack