



## **YMCA of Central East Ontario to Re-Open Monday, August 23rd, 2021**

We appreciated hearing from many of you, our members regarding our re-opening plan that was originally scheduled for September 13th, 2021.

Many members supported our efforts and the steps we are taking to ensure children and youth are supported with opportunities to re-engage with friends and participate in organized activity after missing out for over a year. There were also many members who supported our efforts while also expressing a need to get back to the YMCA for their own physical and mental health needs.

We have been transparent with our members throughout the pandemic and many of you have commended us for this approach. We appreciate the support our members have shown, as it hasn't been easy to make decisions that will impact so many. We want to share with you some of the challenges we were faced with as we arrived at our original decision. In no way was it that we did not care about our adult members or our senior members.

Part of our considerations and deliberations had to do with the limitations on the number of people we could have in our buildings at any given time. Also, we are no different than other businesses who have been challenged with the ability to staff appropriately as they re-open. This is especially true in the area of aquatics, as we have been unable to deliver any instructor or lifeguard certification courses over the last year which is where we are able to recruit many of our staff.

We do listen and we do care about all of our members. And as we have done from the beginning of this pandemic in March of 2020 and will continue to do, is to let our core values guide us to try and do what is right and what could impact people's lives in the most positive way. As we have mentioned many times in past communications, we recognize the pandemic has been extremely difficult for many of you as it has also been difficult for your YMCA, both financially and for our staff teams who have remained so committed to making a difference.

Our day camp programs end on Friday, August 20th and **we will open our branches in Belleville, Peterborough and Quinte West on Monday, August 23rd.**

We will open our branches Monday to Friday from 6:00am to 8:00pm and from 8:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday and Sunday. Our plan will be to continue with many of the same safety and health protocols that we had in place prior to closing, including COVID-19 screening questions upon arrival and online registration for building access, conditioning/lifestyle centres, fitness classes and the pool.

*We truly appreciate the support many of you have demonstrated towards the organization through membership fee donations as well as individual donations. We know the Y means a lot to you and we do not want to let you down.*

**There will be no membership fee withdrawal until September 15th, 2021** and as outlined in our previous communication, we are excited to share our new membership model with you over the next few weeks.

**Thank you for your continued support and understanding.**

Connect with us

