



YMCA of Niagara
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Charitable No. 11930 7064 RR0001

For Immediate Release

January 14, 2022

**YMCA of Niagara Announcement
New purchaser for the Walker Family YMCA and final stage of sales process**

(St. Catharines, ON) – The YMCA of Niagara is pleased to announce they have entered the final stage of the sales process for the Walker Family YMCA. Having completed the conditional review phase of the process, the formal sale of the property at 25 YMCA Drive is expected to be concluded soon. Today, the YMCA is pleased to announce the purchaser for this property which is **Atria Development Corporation**.

Atria is fast becoming one of Southern Ontario’s pre-eminent development companies, creating new single and multi-phase communities in Peterborough, Oshawa and Toronto, as well as Barrie, Hamilton and St. Catharines. Family-owned and community-focused, Atria is distinguished through its commitment to enriching the neighbourhoods where it builds, catalyzing economic activity and stimulating positive social change. The company also believes deeply in adaptive reuse, the repurposing of locally valued but underused structures, an expression of Atria’s environmental stewardship and community focus. The company has recently completed two residential projects associated with YMCAs in Ontario comprising 750 rental units; Y Lofts, an adaptive reuse of a heritage YMCA building in Peterborough and a two phase Bond Street project in Oshawa (100 Bond and 80 Bond), where residents receive a membership to the adjacent Oshawa YMCA during their tenancy.

“We are keen to work with the YMCA to see how this location could be potentially renewed and redeveloped with Atria’s experience, knowledge and capabilities in order to enhance the community in St. Catharines” says Hans Jain, President of Atria Development Corp.

The YMCA is excited to work with such a creative property developer. Mike Watt, YMCA Board Chair states: “There is opportunity for us to explore the possibility of future collaboration and program delivery with our new property owners at this location in addition to our ongoing research related to new and innovative program models and locations across St. Catharines.”

The YMCA has also been in collaborative discussions with the City of St. Catharines throughout this process. Said Mayor Walter Sendzik “The purchase of this property by Atria Development will be a win-win for our St. Catharines community, providing the opportunity to develop quality purpose built-rental and condominium units and creatively explore new ways to leverage this asset as an ongoing “Centre of Community” for future residences and programming. We look forward to ongoing discussions”

In March of 2021, the YMCA of Niagara announced the listing of the Walker Family YMCA for sale, sighting increasing financial pressure amidst dwindling membership numbers and rising maintenance costs for the 27-year-old centre that hosted a range of fitness facilities, as well as licensed childcare and EarlyON programs.

*Building healthy
communities*



At that time, Mike Watt, Board Chair explained “We truly believe that the sale of the Walker Family YMCA is a step we must take to guarantee the long-term financial sustainability of the Association helping to ensure we can continue serving the community of St. Catharines and the Niagara Region for many years to come”. Positioning the sale as a necessary measure, the Walker YMCA closed to the public during the pandemic but opened during a brief window of time in the fall of 2020 before closing again on December 26, 2020. Since then, full health, fitness and aquatics memberships have not resumed although selected programs and services have been offered from this location.

More recently, in August of 2021, YMCA of Niagara CEO Steven Chuang announced that a qualified purchaser had stepped forward and the YMCA had entered a conditional review stage with them while continuing to explore ongoing and future opportunities to provide programs and services to the St. Catharines community. Steven Chuang emphasized even if the building was sold, it would not mean the end of YMCA programming in the city. "When the building does get sold the proceeds will allow us to reassess the conditions of health, fitness, aquatics, and whole recreational programming in St. Catharines and the Niagara Region, and how to reinvest back into a new post-COVID world."

The YMCA will provide updates on next steps once this process is completed and would like to thank Colliers International for their help with the sale.

All other YMCA of Niagara Health, Fitness and Aquatics locations in Port Colborne, Niagara West and Welland resumed full operations this fall, and recently transitioned to offering virtual programming during the provincial lockdown; these locations will be reactivated for in person service as soon as the provincial restrictions allow. YMCA Licensed Infant, Toddler and Preschool Child Care Programs remain uninterrupted. YMCA Licensed Before and After School Care will resume when the schools reopen. YMCA Employment and Immigrant Services, EarlyON and Community Outreach Programs are now operating under a virtual model while under lockdown and are expected to resume in person operations as soon as possible. Full details on the wide range of YMCA programs and services being offered can be found on [our website](#).

About the YMCA of Niagara

The YMCA is a charity serving our community for over 160 years. **The YMCA of Niagara** is a charity dedicated to the growth of all persons in spirit, mind, and body with a sense of responsibility to each other and the global community

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Frequently Asked Questions from the Community

Who are the Board of Directors?

The YMCA Board of Directors is comprised of 10-14 volunteer community leaders providing governance and policy directions to the organization. We do so with the utmost interest of the organization and abiding by our fiduciary responsibilities as Directors. Our most recent list of Board Members can be found on our Annual Report located on [our website](#).

How can I contact the Board?

We are committed to transparency and communication with the public. If you would like to connect with the Board, or wish to be added to an upcoming Agenda, please contact the Executive Assistant to the CEO, Nancy Brown @ nancy.brown@niagara.ymca.ca

As best practice, a Board Meeting has to be called by the Chair of the Board, Mike Watt, for a formal discussion to take place (and minutes taken) with regards to the business affairs of YMCA. Therefore, we kindly ask that you respect the process for communicating with Board Members pertaining to the YMCA's business activities.

I was/am a YMCA Member, what access do I have?

In accordance with our by-laws and subsequent changes with respect to ONCA, there are two types of members; #1 Community Voting Members are nominated and elected to serve on a three-year term, and they are invited to AGM with eligibility to vote on organizational matters, including electing Directors to the Board and #2 YMCA Health, Fitness and Aquatics memberships entitle one to access a range of programming and services as members and supporters of the YMCA.

If you would like to be considered for future Board Director election or Community Voting Members election, please contact the Executive Assistant to the CEO, Nancy Brown @ nancy.brown@niagara.ymca.ca

Can I have a copy of the audited Financial Statement?

Yes, as a non-profit organization with legislated reporting requirements, our audited financial statements are available upon request. For a summarized version of our financials, you can view the most recent Annual Report 2020-2021 on [our website](#).

How has COVID-19 Pandemic affected the YMCA of Niagara?

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How can I obtain a YMCA membership?

Please visit our website to learn more about our [new flexible ways to join](#), and about the programs and services available to you at our YMCA.