



YWCA METRO VANCOUVER

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

PRESENTED BY

Scotiabank®

2024 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS





ABOUT THE AWARDS

The Women of Distinction Awards presented by Scotiabank is YWCA Metro Vancouver's premier fundraising event. The Women of Distinction Awards honours self-identifying women whose outstanding achievements contribute to the well-being and future of our community. The Awards also honours businesses and organizations that support the wellness and diverse needs of their employees.

HOW TO NOMINATE

All nominations must be completed and submitted **online**.

We recommend you have all documents ready before completing the online nomination. A nominator must complete all required fields on the online nomination form, including:

- Nominee and nominator information
- Summary of nomination (120 word maximum)
- Nomination criteria (300 word maximum for each of the criteria)
- Letters of support (three letters required from third parties to the nomination)
- Optional: supplemental materials (magazine ads, media releases etc., resumes, three pages maximum)
- Submit the online nomination form and email all additional material

To nominate: visit ywcavan.org/wod under "Nominations".

Deadline: Friday, December 1, 2023 at 5:00pm.



ELIGIBLE NOMINEES MUST:

1. Live and work (individuals) or operate (businesses and organizations) within the Metro Vancouver region bounded by and including Hope, Pemberton, Sunshine Coast and the United States border.
2. Not currently be in a campaign for or serving a term in office as an elected government official.
3. Satisfy each of the five nomination criteria for their award category as listed below.
4. Consent to the nomination and the publication of their name, photo and information.
5. Attend the photo shoot on either Wednesday, February 14 or Thursday, February 15, 2024.
6. Attend the Announcing the Nominees' reception (date TBC, March 2024) and Awards reception and dinner on May 13, 2024.
7. Be 18-25 years of age as of March 8, 2024, for the Young Woman of Distinction category.
8. Satisfy the YWCA Metro Vancouver Women of Distinction Values Statement.
9. Submit a quote and participate in the Connecting the Community Award (individual nominees only).



NOMINEES CRITERIA - INDIVIDUALS

A Woman of Distinction inspires others. They have achieved outstanding success in their field by:

1. Showing vision and initiative to break new ground or old barriers.
2. Demonstrating accomplishments that help them stand out amongst their peers.
3. Being a leader and role model.
4. Participating actively as a volunteer.
5. Being recognized by their community for their sustained commitment and contribution within their category.

NOMINEES CRITERIA - OUTSTANDING WORKPLACE

An Outstanding Workplace supports the wellness and diverse needs of its employees by:

1. Being a role model in best workplace practices and implementing an innovative initiative exclusively for employees.
2. Being progressive and responsive to employee needs, including work/life balance.
3. Being committed to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.
4. Supporting the advancement and success of women.
5. Fostering professional development and mentorship.
6. Supporting employee volunteerism and community initiatives.
7. Promoting healthy lifestyles.



HOW ARE THE NOMINEES AND RECIPIENTS CHOSEN?

The nominations committee reviews all submissions for completeness and eligibility. Accepted nominations are forwarded to an independent judging panel. The nominations committee and judging panel reserve the right to withhold an award in any category. All nominees will be advised of the eligibility of their applications by Wednesday, February 1, 2024.

HOW ARE THE NOMINEES RECOGNIZED?

All qualified Nominees will be officially and publically announced at the Announcing the Nominees Celebration in Honour of International Women's Day (date TBD, March 2024). All Nominees and award recipients will be honoured at the Awards reception and dinner on May 13, 2024. Award recipients are announced at the dinner. Regular tickets for guests will be available online at ywcawomenofdistinction.org on February 1, 2024.



CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY AWARD

(INDIVIDUALS ONLY)

All individual nominees are eligible for the Connecting the Community Award. It is the only award determined by an online vote. Each nominee chooses a pre-defined YWCA program area to support:

- Advance gender equity
- Support early learning and child care
- Deliver affordable housing for single mother-led families
- Support access to justice
- End gender-based violence

The online vote will be open March 8 – April 12, 2024. Nominees are encouraged to use social media to promote their choices and generate votes. The nominee with the most votes will receive the Connecting the Community Award and Scotiabank will donate \$10,000 to the YWCA program area of her choice.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

ARTS, CULTURE & DESIGN

SPONSORED BY SEASPAN SHIPYARDS

They enrich the community through their talents and their commitment to visual, literary, media, architectural and/or performing arts and have made a significant and sustained difference in Metro Vancouver. They excel at facilitating or promoting the artistic efforts of others and broadening community engagement in the arts.

BUSINESS & THE PROFESSIONS

Their colleagues and competitors in the field acknowledge their professional leadership and consistent commitment to excellence. They have made a significant and sustained difference in Metro Vancouver while leveraging their achievements and business acumen to facilitate change and create opportunities. They demonstrate respect for, and engagement with their community, clients and colleagues.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION

SPONSORED BY PACIFIC BLUE CROSS

They have personally identified a local community need or issue and initiated meaningful change, dedicating their own time and resources to champion their cause. What started as a volunteer crusade could now be a full-time or paid role for this leader. They have made a significant and sustained difference in Metro Vancouver while being recognized as a source of strength and heart in their communities and are able to harness the time, talent and capacity of others.

EDUCATION, TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

SPONSORED BY BCAA

They inspire a passion for life-long learning in those around them and have made a significant and sustained difference in Metro Vancouver. They contribute through practice, research or administration in a learning environment including the education system, employee training and development, community education and/or alternative programs. They motivate others to gain knowledge, set goals or seek opportunities.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION

SPONSORED BY CLIO

They have taken an innovative approach to solving a problem, filling a need or breaking into a new market. Their drive, ingenuity and solid vision for their businesses separates them from their competitors. They have made sacrifices and taken great risks to successfully launch, revive or manage a business, all while having made a significant and sustained difference in Metro Vancouver.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

They are dedicated to promoting and creating the practices that contribute to a sustainable community, while having made a significant and sustained difference in Metro Vancouver. They generate opportunities that minimize the physical, ecological, human and economic impact on our planet. They collaborate with and educate others to identify strategies and solutions for good environmental practices and partnerships.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

SPONSORED BY IA FINANCIAL GROUP

They have an unwavering commitment to delivering, promoting and advocating for healthy lives and communities. They have made significant and sustained difference in Metro Vancouver while empowering their communities to change or better their lives through improved health and wellness practices.

NON-PROFIT

SPONSORED BY BC HOUSING

Hired or summoned to the role for their exemplary qualifications, they propel change through their leadership, professionalism and vision within the non-profit sector. They have made significant and sustained difference in Metro Vancouver while strengthening and building momentum and capacity by advocating for important issues and/or causes. They mentor, inspire and mobilize others through their personal commitment and passion. They have successfully identified new opportunities, resources and/or partnerships.

RECONCILIATION IN ACTION

SPONSORED BY RECIPROCAL CONSULTING

Honouring two unique women, an Indigenous leader and an ally, working independently and committed to finding a new way forward. They engage their communities in dialogue and actions to strengthen relationships. They have made a significant and sustained difference across Metro Vancouver by supporting healing and building more just and equitable communities for all people. They may be a champion or advocate committed to the reconciliation movement.

RESEARCH, THE SCIENCES & TECHNOLOGY

SPONSORED BY MDA

They have made a significant and sustained difference in Metro Vancouver through their dedicated pursuit of scientific, technological and/or research-based discoveries. They are highly respected in their field and is a sought-after visionary and mentor of other women. Their dedicated approach to their industry and/or program signifies their leadership and critical thinking abilities.

YOUNG WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

They are exceptional young women aged 18-25 who demonstrate leadership, maturity and compassion. They have made significant difference in Metro Vancouver through their commitment to a cause or pursuit of a personal dream while showing perseverance, innovation and a keen understanding of community issues.

OUTSTANDING WORKPLACE

SPONSORED BY SAP LABS CANADA

This award category recognizes a business or organization that has implemented a unique workplace culture. It supports and responds to the diverse needs of its employees, encouraging them to balance the demands and rewards of career, family, community and personal growth. This business or organization acknowledges the additional challenges that its female employees may face and proactively supports the success and advancement of women in its workplace.

OUR VALUES STATEMENT

The YWCA Metro Vancouver Women of Distinction Awards encourages nominations that showcase individuals who are driving positive change either directly or by example. Activities and achievements of all potential nominees must align with the YWCA's values. The candidates' participation in employment, recreation or special interests encapsulates the spirit of women's equality as outlined in YWCA Metro Vancouver's mission and vision. The YWCA reserves the right to revoke an award if subsequent circumstances respecting the recipient contradict the mission, ethics and / or values of YWCA Metro Vancouver or bring its reputation in into disrepute. The nominee or nominator may withdraw the nomination, for any reason, up to two weeks before the Award ceremony. The withdrawal must be made in writing, notifying the nominator/nominee and the YWCA of the withdrawal. The YWCA will accept the withdrawal, effective immediately. We strongly encourage nominations that recognize the contributions of Black, Indigenous and People of Colour, as well as 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.

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ABOUT US

YWCA Metro Vancouver is a registered charity, gender equity advocate and community service provider. We boldly envision a just and equitable world for women, families and allies. We deliver affordable housing, early learning and child care, training and employment services, and a range of holistic programs that help support individual, collective and economic wellbeing.

OUR ANNUAL IMPACT

In 2022:

4,519 job seekers

accessed career support through YWCA's programs and WorkBC Employment Services.

687 women and children

made their home in one of 15 YWCA housing communities.

838 Grade 7-9 students

participated in YWCA Youth Education programs.

29,407 meals

were served at YWCA Crabtree Corner in the Downtown Eastside.

187 mothers and 270 children

participated in 17 Single Mothers' Support Groups.

41ST ANNUAL WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS MAY 13, 2024 | WESTIN BAYSHORE

Recognize trailblazers across Metro Vancouver by nominating a woman or workplace for a YWCA Women of Distinction Award.

DEADLINE: December 1, 2023

YWCAVAN.ORG/WOD

