

Women of **DISTINCTION** NOMINATION PACKAGE

2026 AWARDS

Thursday, May 7, 2026

11:30AM - 1:00PM

Royal Glenora Club



Honouring the Women and Gender-Diverse Leaders Who Drive Positive Change in Our Community

YWCA Edmonton's **Women of Distinction Awards** celebrate the outstanding contributions of women and gender-diverse individuals who embody the mission and values of YWCA Edmonton. Each nominee demonstrates dedication, innovation, and community leadership, inspiring others and driving meaningful impact across diverse fields.

Nominations are open to individuals who are committed to improving the lives of others, advocating for equity, and working towards a more inclusive and supportive Edmonton. We welcome nominations that reflect the diversity of our community, including Indigenous women, racialized women, women with disabilities, LGBTQ2S+ individuals and women of all ages and backgrounds.

Nominate a Woman of Distinction at www.ywcaofedmonton.org/women-of-distinction.

Nomination Process

1: Review Award Categories and Criteria

- Choose the category that best aligns with your nominee's contributions. Each nominee may only be nominated in one category per year.

2: Gather Required Documents

- Ensure the following documents are prepared:
- Completed Nomination Form
- Nominee's Resume or CV
- Two Letters of Support, each no longer than one page, highlighting the nominee's impact, achievements, and community involvement.

3: Complete the Nomination Form

- Provide detailed responses to each section, focusing on specific examples that illustrate the nominee's alignment with YWCA's mission of equity, opportunity and choice for all.

4: Submit the Completed Nomination Package

- Send all materials through our online form or contact communications@ywcaedm.org.

Nomination Deadline:

February 16, 2026

Arts & Culture Award

This award honours individuals who enrich the community through their contributions to arts and culture. Nominees may include artists, performers, curators, or leaders who champion and enhance the cultural vibrancy of Edmonton.

Business & Entrepreneur Award

This award honours entrepreneurs and business leaders who demonstrate innovation, leadership and success in the business world. Nominees are role models who contribute to economic growth, create opportunities for others and uphold ethical and equitable business practices. Their leadership may also advance gender equity or positively impact the broader community.

Community Changemaker Award

This award honours individuals whose leadership and advocacy have driven meaningful change at the community level. Nominees may be grassroots leaders, advocates, volunteers or organizers whose work addresses systemic barriers, strengthens communities and advances equity, inclusion and social wellbeing.

Eligibility Criteria

- Nominees must reside or work in the Edmonton area.
- Self-identified women and gender-diverse individuals.
- Nominee consent is required for all submissions, with the exception of the Bellamy Award, which recognizes posthumous nominations.
- Self-nomination is not permitted.

- **General Nomination Requirements:**

- Completed nomination form.
- Nominee consent confirmation (*not required for the Bellamy Award*).
- Nominee resume or CV.
- Two letters of support. Letters of support should be no longer than one page each and focus on the nominee's impact, leadership and community contribution.

- **Bellamy Award Nomination Requirements:**

- Written summary of the nominee's life and contributions
- Historical records, publications and/or archival materials
- Two letters of support outlining the nominee's legacy and long-term impact

Nominations are confidential; only award recipients will be publicly announced.

Next Generation/Emerging Leaders Award (Under Age 30)

This award honours young individuals making significant strides in their careers or community efforts, showcasing extraordinary leadership, initiative, and vision. Nominees inspire their peers, challenge the status quo, and serve as examples through their achievements, embodying the spirit of future leaders committed to positive change.

Trailblazer Award

This award honours those who have paved the way in their respective fields, this award celebrates individuals who have broken barriers and pushed boundaries. Trailblazers lead through courage and innovation, setting new standards and inspiring future generations. Nominees in this category have made significant advancements, impacting their field and inspiring a broader societal shift.

The Bellamy Award

In honour of YWCA Edmonton's first president, Lorinda Bellamy (1907–1911), this award posthumously celebrates an extraordinary historic Edmonton woman and her lasting contributions to our community. The Bellamy Award recognizes women whose leadership, advocacy or service helped shape Edmonton and whose impact continues to be felt today. This legacy award honours those who paved the way for equity, opportunity, and community wellbeing, even if their work took place in an earlier era.

This award is for posthumous nominations. Nominees must have made a significant contribution to the Edmonton community.

Of note:

Important Dates

- Nominations Close: February 16, 2026
- Awards Ceremony: Thursday, May 7

Submission Checklist

- Nominee's Consent checkbox
- Nominee's Resume or CV
- Two Letters of Support
- Completed Nomination Form

Nominate a Woman of Distinction at www.ywcaofedmonton.org/women-of-distinction

Selection Process:

All nominations are reviewed by a selection committee. Awards are granted based on the strength of the nomination package and alignment with YWCA Edmonton's mission and values. All decisions are final and confidential. Only award recipients will be publicly announced.

Not all award categories may be presented every year.

Submission Form Requirements

SECTION 1: NOMINATOR INFORMATION

- Full Name
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address
 - Relationship to the Nominee
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SECTION 2: NOMINEE INFORMATION

- Full Name
 - Date of Birth (*for youth category only*)
 - Pronouns
 - Contact Information (Phone, Email)
 - Address
 - Employer/Organization Name and Position (*if applicable*)
 - Nominee Consent (*checkbox*)
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SECTION 3: NOMINEE CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Criteria 1:** Describe three examples of how the nominee has demonstrated innovation, leadership, or broken new ground in their field (*2750 character maximum*).
 - **Criteria 2:** Provide examples of key accomplishments that distinguish them as a leader in their category (*1500 character maximum*).
 - **Criteria 3:** Explain how the nominee serves as a role model and leader within their community (*1500 character maximum*).
 - **Criteria 4:** List volunteer activities within their field, including impact (*1500 character maximum*).
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SECTION 4: SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- Nominee Resume or CV
- Two additional letters of support (*maximum one page each*)

YWCA EDMONTON

Welcome Home Project

The Women of Distinction Awards are more than a celebration – they are a powerful catalyst for change in our community. Every dollar raised through this event supports YWCA Edmonton's mission to empower women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals to thrive in safe, equitable communities. Your sponsorship directly sustains our essential programs and services that provide critical support to those facing the toughest challenges, including our Welcome Home Project.

A unique and life-changing affordable housing partnership, the Welcome Home Project helps women and families leaving second-stage shelters or unsafe homes transition into affordable, high-quality homes. This initiative goes beyond housing, providing the wraparound social supports they need to rebuild their lives with dignity and stability. From financial literacy to mental health resources, we walk alongside them every step of the way to ensure long-term success.

