



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **GENEROUS COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS HELP MAKE COVID-CANCELLED YMCA-YWCA CHARITY TOURNAMENT A FUNDRAISING SUCCESS**

**OTTAWA, May 11, 2020** – The Lawyers for Kids Charity Hockey Tournament, Presented by PBC Group, has been an important partner and supporter of YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region for the past 10 years. Despite having to cancel the 2020 tournament due to COVID-19 related closures, the YMCA-YWCA is humbled and pleased to announce that thanks to the dedicated participants, sponsors, and organizers who stepped forward with true community spirit, \$25,700 was raised without a single puck being dropped, and will be directed to support Y programs and services needed in our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The origins of the annual Lawyers for Kids Charity Hockey Tournament began in 2010. In tribute to former Y Board Member and Ottawa lawyer, Jim O’Grady, friends created a memorial hockey tournament. Now ten years on, the tournament consistently sells out and is attended by many law firms, bringing together lawyers, their colleagues, and other allied professionals in the Ottawa legal community. Since its inception, the Lawyers for Kids Charity Hockey Tournament has raised an incredible \$250,000 for vital Y programs, such as the After School Kids Program.

“When we realized the tournament was likely to be cancelled, we rallied together and reminded ourselves that the spirit of the event is not primarily to play hockey, but to give back to the community,” said Cale Harrison, committee chair for the Lawyers for Kids Charity Hockey Tournament. “Seeing the show of support from our participants, donors, and sponsors was not only moving, it was truly meaningful because the Y has been forced to close many of their revenue-generating programs. Despite this, their doors remain open as an essential service for housing residents, and Employment and Newcomer Information centres continue to provide critical community support, virtually.”

“This is a highlight event for us at McMillan LLP,” said tournament participant and McMillan LLP Lawyer, Martin Thompson. “We always enjoy the camaraderie, the competition and honouring one of our own who gave so much of his time to the Y and its programs. It allows us to give back and help those within our community who are most in need. While we may not have been able to physically support the cause this year, there was never a doubt in my mind that the Ottawa firms would join forces and continue to support this important cause.”

“This heartening display of generosity demonstrates that our donor community is aware of and responding to the impact that COVID-19 is having on charities such as the Y”, said Bob Gallagher, President and CEO of the YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region. “We are exceptionally grateful for their ongoing support during these challenging times.”

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The YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region hosts several fundraising events each year to help raise much needed support for programs and services that make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, youth and families in our communities. The next event is the annual Y Golf Classic, which is scheduled to take place at Camelot Golf and Country Club, on September 21. For more information, and to get involved, please visit [ygiving.com](http://ygiving.com).

**About the YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region**

Founded in 1867, the YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region is a registered charity dedicated to building healthy communities. The organization is committed to nurturing the potential of children, teens and young adults, promoting healthy living and supporting vulnerable people within the community. The Y serves more than 80,000 people across the Ottawa region annually. A focus on inclusiveness and accessibility means people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities are served through all stages of life; and through its financial assistance programs, the Y is accessible to all. To learn more visit [ymcaywca.ca](http://ymcaywca.ca).

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