



**YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon**  
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### **Announcement from the YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon**

**April 2, 2012 (St. John's, NL)** – The Board of Directors of the YMCA-YWCA of Northeast Avalon has notified its voting members that it proposes to voluntarily withdraw from its affiliation with YWCA Canada.

“Since the organization has focused on programming for women, men, children and families, and does not operate any programming for women only, the board believes the right thing to do is withdraw from our affiliation with YWCA Canada,” says board chair Greg Dickie. “Our bylaws require this decision to go to our membership at two separate meetings, which are scheduled for May 31 and June 15.”

The YMCA and YWCA in St. John's amalgamated in 1975. At that time the YMCA movement was operated by men, serving men and boys. The YWCA was operated by women, serving women and girls. Since that time, YMCAs around the world have become family-focused associations, serving the whole community, while the YWCA philosophy and programming remains primarily for women. Both YMCAs and YWCAs are charitable organizations.

“This proposal would not change any current Y programs or services,” says Chris Roos, President and CEO. “Only our name would change.”

Mr. Roos said discussions about voluntary withdrawal have been held with the Toronto-based YWCA Canada office for more than two years. “If the voting membership agrees to the board's proposal, we would like to make a joint announcement with the YWCA about what the future holds and how our Y association can support the establishment of new YWCA programs locally.”

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