



For immediate release

September 25, 2024

## **Craig Rowe one of 12 outstanding Canadians appointed to the YMCA Fellowship of Honour**

### **The Honourable Senator Ratna Omidvar recognizes Craig Rowe at the 2024 Investiture Ceremony**

(St. John's) – Craig Rowe has dedicated years of his life to expanding the reach of the YMCA in our community. His commitment and contributions were officially celebrated on September 25, 2024 when he received the YMCA Fellowship of Honour medal from the Honourable Senator Ratna Omidvar in a ceremony held at the Rideau Club in Ottawa, Canada.

“We are very proud of and grateful to Craig Rowe,” says YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador CEO, Jason Brown. “His leadership and years of dedication and passion have helped to build a stronger, healthier YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador that, in turn, is helping to build a healthier Province. Craig Rowe’s personal investment of time, energy and talent in serving others has created a legacy that will be felt for generations.”

Craig’s involvement with the YMCA began in the 1990s as a member and volunteer, leading to his tenure as Chair on the local Board of Directors. During his leadership, he navigated the organization through a CEO transition, capital campaigns, and construction projects. This laid the foundation for the transformation of the YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador into a province-wide organization with over 200 locations.

On a community level, Craig spearheaded the development of the Ches Penney Family YMCA in St. John’s in 2011, which evolved to impact communities across Newfoundland and Labrador. Under his guidance, the YMCA expanded its programs in all areas, demonstrating Craig’s exceptional leadership and ability to inspire engagement and support. At the regional, national, and international levels, Craig’s influence extended beyond Newfoundland and Labrador. He served as Chair of the National Board, contributing to CEO searches, national conferences, and strategic planning. Additionally, Craig was elected to the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of YMCAs, where he played a significant role in initiatives such as the COVID-19 Solidarity Fund and the Canada/Africa Initiative.

The YMCA Fellowship of Honour has recognized the distinguished and exceptional service of volunteers and staff since its inception in 1978. The induction of YMCA leaders takes place every three to four years, under the patronage of the Governor General of Canada. More than 130 exemplary Canadians have been honoured in one of two categories: A Companion award recognizes outstanding national and international leadership, and an

Officer award acknowledges local or regional leadership contributions. Craig Rowe joins the Fellowship as a Companion.

Collectively, these committed Canadians have provided distinguished service to the YMCA in communities from coast to coast to coast. “Each of these individuals is a shining example of what it means to give back to community,” said Peter Dinsdale, YMCA Canada’s President and CEO. “Their passion for helping to ensure a sense of belonging for all has created ripples of positive impact in communities across Canada and around the world. We are forever grateful for their contributions, and reminded of the tremendous difference one committed person can make.”

#### *About the YMCA Fellowship of Honour*

The appointments to the YMCA Fellowship of Honour are governed by a selection process established by the YMCA Fellowship of Honour Constitution and directed by an Advisory Council composed of a Canadian YMCA leader as Chair, at least three Canadians who have served the YMCA with distinction, the Chair of the YMCA Board and the national President and Chief Executive Officer. The Council considers nominations received from throughout the Canadian movement and recommends appointments to the National Board for approval. Each recipient receives a Fellowship of Honour Medal designed by award-winning artist Dora de Pedery-Hunt, a framed citation and commemorative lapel pin and is featured in a book of Fellowship of Honour recipients.

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#### **For more information, contact:**

Michelle Northover, Chief Development Officer  
YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Michelle.northover@nl.ymca.ca

#### **About the YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador**

The YMCA of Newfoundland and Labrador is a charity, open to everyone at all stages of life that provides opportunities to grow in spirit, mind, and body. Our vision is a province of vibrant and healthy communities where everyone can belong, grow, and thrive.

[www.ymcanl.com](http://www.ymcanl.com)