



**2026 Ontario Budget Consultation
Infrastructure Investment Submission**

**Investing in Community Recreation Infrastructure
The Downtown Hamilton Family YMCA**

Presenter: Manny Figueiredo, President and Chief Executive Officer
YMCA Hamilton|Burlington|Brantford

Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026 | **Time:** 10:00 a.m.

Location: Carmen's Event Centre, 1520 Stone Church Rd. E
Hamilton, ON L8W 3P9

Thank you, and good morning.

My name is Manny Figueiredo, President and CEO of YMCA Hamilton|Burlington|Brantford. I appreciate the opportunity to speak as Ontario prepares the 2026 Budget.

We are asking the province to continue to commit to a new infrastructure funding stream or a new capital program for recreation centres.

I am also here today to ask the Province to invest in a critical piece of community recreation infrastructure: a new Downtown Hamilton Family YMCA.

In a period of economic uncertainty and global trade risk, Ontario must focus on investments that protect workers, strengthen local economies, and reduce long-term pressure on public systems. The Downtown Hamilton Family YMCA is a cost-effective, preventative infrastructure investment that does exactly that, while also unlocking housing development.

As the YMCA in Hamilton marks its 170th Annual General Meeting this year, our commitment to serving this community remains strong. At the same time, the existing Downtown Hamilton Family YMCA is an aging, end-of-life facility, with major systems long past their lifespan and more than \$11.5 million in short-term repairs required simply to remain operational. That approach is not fiscally responsible and does not position Hamilton or Ontario for the future.

The Downtown Hamilton Family YMCA is exactly the type of end-of-life facility renewal the Community Sport and Recreation Infrastructure Fund was designed to support, and we are asking the Province to commit to a new infrastructure funding stream or a new capital program in the 2026 Budget.

Replacing this aging facility with a modern, purpose-built YMCA Centre of Community is the right infrastructure solution.

This is not a single-purpose building. It is multi-outcome social infrastructure that supports health, child care, youth resilience, employment, immigration settlement services, and community belonging in one efficient, accessible downtown facility.

As a new Centre of Community, the Downtown Hamilton YMCA will deliver upstream youth intervention programs while also serving as a significant youth employer, providing first jobs that help young people have hope, stay connected, productive, and on a positive path.

The downtown location also matters. As part of the City of Hamilton's 10-year Downtown Revitalization Strategy, the Downtown Hamilton Family YMCA supports economic activity, public safety, and essential services in a core that needs support, serving residents across all ages and backgrounds.

Through our partnership with Collecdev Markee, a developer focused on building better communities, the Downtown Hamilton Family YMCA unlocks significant housing development within the same block – approximately 600 co-op rental units! This housing development would not proceed without the YMCA's contribution; it is the pillar that makes it possible. A Centre of Community where citizens can live, work, and play!

The federal government has already committed \$25 million. Partners are aligned. Provincial investment is critical to ensure this project comes to fruition; it would accelerate a project already in motion and complete a shared funding model.

We hope the Province will continue to commit to a provincial funding stream and match the \$25 million from the Federal government in Hamilton.

The YMCA is a proven delivery partner with a strong track record managing complex assets, delivering licensed child care, and stewarding public investment responsibly. We are ready to build infrastructure that meets modern accessibility, sustainability, and service standards.

Ontario's support for the new Downtown Hamilton Family YMCA is an investment in community health, workforce participation, downtown revitalization, and long-term value for taxpayers.

We urge the Province to advance recreation infrastructure funding in the 2026 Budget and to partner with us to bring this project to life as a shining example in the province.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

- End



Ignite Hamilton's Tomorrow



A New YMCA Centre of Community
Guiding Health, Connection, and Belonging Forward

A Historic Cornerstone in Hamilton

At the Heart of Hamilton’s Urban Transformation

The Downtown YMCA on James Street South has long been a cornerstone of Hamilton. Built where train tracks once ran, it became a place of hope, connection, and opportunity. Offering housing, fitness facilities, and community programs, it helped people of all ages build stability, confidence, and friendships. Through decades of change, the YMCA remains a steadfast symbol of care and connection in Hamilton’s heart.



How the Community Gains

- Economic and Social Impact**
Revitalizing downtown and boosting growth through partnerships and innovative services.
 - Family-Friendly Services**
Inclusive childcare and family support for a nurturing, worry-free environment.
 - Community Engagement**
Spaces that build connections, foster inclusion, and strengthen community ties.
- Accessibility and Inclusivity**
Welcoming, accessible services that promote health equity and connection.
 - Holistic Wellness**
State-of-the-art facilities and programs for all ages, focusing on youth and seniors.

YMCA Vision and Mission

Vision: Creating a vibrant and healthy community where everyone thrives.
Mission: Creating spaces to belong and promoting healthy living for people at all stages of life.

What the New YMCA Centre of Community will offer

- The new YMCA Centre of Community will provide programs and services for all, fostering health, inclusion, and growth. From fitness to family support, it will be a hub of opportunity for everyone.
- Comprehensive Health, Fitness, & Aquatics**
Modern fitness spaces, swimming pools, and wellness programs will promote physical and mental well-being for all ages.

- Inclusive Child & Family Support Services**
Child Care, after-school programs, and family resources will help children grow and families thrive.
- Employment, Immigration & Social Services**
Job training, settlement support, and key resources will empower individuals and families to succeed.
- Administrative & Supportive Amenities**
Welcoming and accessible spaces will ensure everyone feels supported and connected.
- Sports & Recreational Facilities**
Spaces for sports, leagues, and camps will build skills, teamwork, and strong communities.



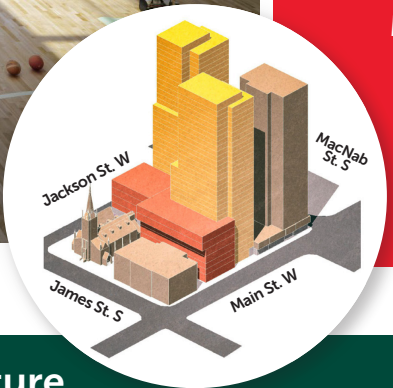
Our Community Hub

Located in the heart of Hamilton’s downtown, the YMCA Centre of Community will anchor the Jackson/James/Main/MacNab block with a commitment to preserving the historic St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church.

Strategically positioned for accessibility:

- Steps from GO Stations and the future LRT
- Central to the downtown core and vibrant city life
- Close to essential public services, including HWDSB and HWCDSB schools, St. Joseph’s Healthcare, Hamilton Health Sciences, City of Hamilton offices, McMaster University, and more.

This prime location ensures seamless connectivity and access for everyone in the community.



A Greener Future

Our commitment to sustainability includes designing a Net Carbon Zero building, ensuring the YMCA contributes to a healthier planet while serving generations.



A Place for Everyone It is more than a facility—it is a community hub where health, connection, and opportunity intersect to create a brighter future for all.

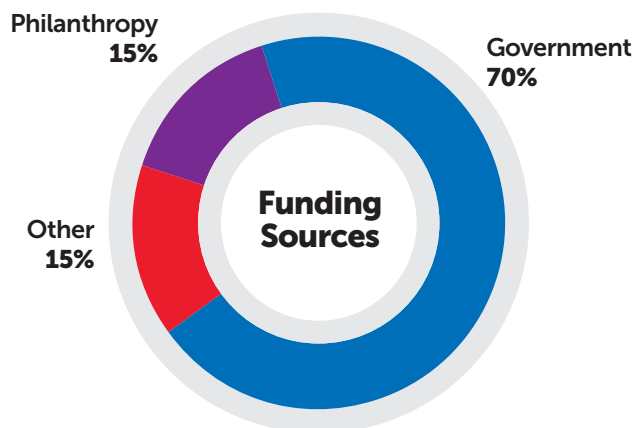


How We're Making It Happen

The estimated **\$72 million project** represents a transformative investment and a bold commitment to creating a brighter future for Hamilton. Whether building new or renovating, this initiative will deliver a state-of-the-art facility that addresses the evolving needs of the community.

Collaborative Funding Plan

This ambitious vision relies on partnerships with all levels of government—Municipal, Provincial, and Federal—alongside the generous support of donors. Together, we can ensure the YMCA remains a cornerstone of health, connection, and opportunity for all.



YOU CAN BRIGHTEN THE FUTURE

Our philanthropy ensures access for all.

The Downtown YMCA is a cornerstone of Hamilton's community—serving people of all ages, backgrounds, and income levels. The YMCA is for everyone, working every day to give all people the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive.

We invite you to support the Downtown Hamilton YMCA to sustain its impact on thousands of lives. Your generosity will help us create a healthier, more connected, and inclusive Hamilton.

The vision of a new Downtown YMCA is within reach. Together, with your financial support, we can achieve so much more.

For more information on how you can contribute or explore naming opportunities, please contact:

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Phone: (365) 336-9088

JOIN US in transforming Hamilton's downtown with a new YMCA Centre of Community.

Together, we can create a legacy of health, connection, and belonging for generations to come.