

**YMCA of Northern
Alberta**
ymcanab.ca

**YMCA of Southeastern
Alberta**
medicinehatymca.ca

YMCA Calgary
ymcacalgary.org

YMCA of Lethbridge
lethbridgeymca.ca

August 12, 2026

To the Standing Committee on Alberta's Economic Future:

The YMCAs of Alberta appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback as part of the Committee's comprehensive review of the *Lobbyists Act*.

As registered charities, the YMCAs of Alberta have been serving Albertans for 125 years. We provide vital social infrastructure, creating jobs, delivering services, and fostering well-being. Our programs and services include licensed child care; health, fitness, and aquatics programs; skills and employment training; mental health services; and more.

Given our experiences across a variety of sectors, we are frequently consulted by government to provide guidance and expertise on policy issues affecting the well-being of all Albertans. As part of our commitment to creating healthy, thriving communities, we also regularly engage with elected officials and public servants to develop policies and programs for public benefit.

The current exemption of public benefit non-profits from the *Lobbyists Act* reduces our administrative burden and frees up valuable time and resources to collaborate with government on solutions that improve outcomes for all Albertans. As the Committee undergoes its review of the *Lobbyists Act*, we recommend continued exemption for public benefit non-profits, as specified under Section 3(1).

Recent changes to federal lobbying regulations have increased administrative and reporting requirements for non-profits, and similar changes provincially would further limit our resources and ability to participate in the public policy process. As the non-profit sector is already subject to robust accountability measures through financial reporting, oversight by board of directors and funders, and governance requirements, exemption from the *Lobbyists Act* continues to be warranted.

Thank you for considering our feedback and recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further information.

Sincerely,



Sharon Hayward
CEO
YMCA of Southeastern
Alberta



Shannon Doram
President & CEO
YMCA Calgary



Jennifer Petrcek-Kolb
CEO
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Katherine O'Neill
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