



## 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Distinction Information Sheet

### **45<sup>th</sup> Annual Women of Distinction Awards**

The YWCA Lethbridge & District has honored the contributions of 211 women in the Southern Alberta who have distinguished themselves through their achievements as members of their community and role models for other women. The YWCA tradition will influence but not impede the 2021 Women of Distinction Awards. The Essential Hero and the Community Champion categories have been added to acknowledge women who demonstrate extraordinary perseverance and innovation while facing pandemic challenges head on.

### **Women of Distinction Nominations**

YWCA Lethbridge & District is seeking nominations for extraordinary women who merit this recognition. A YWCA Woman of Distinction is a leader, a mentor, a facilitator, a communicator, a supporter, and a listener. Her unique contributions enrich lives and her community. She has made commitment to and a significant difference in her community or the larger world. Her achievements demonstrate vision, creativity, and innovation.

A Woman of Distinction Nominee exemplifies the YWCA Lethbridge & District's:

- Mission by enhancing lives through personal empowerment and supportive community; and
- Vision by leading the community with innovative solutions to enrich lives, promote fulfillment, and create happiness.

She may have:

- Made significant contributions to the community.
- Performed as a leader and as a positive role model.
- Provided significant mentorship to girls and/or women.
- Broken new ground, overcome barriers, or been an agent for change.
- Achieved outstanding success in her chosen field.
- Participated actively as a volunteer.

### **Key Dates**

Nominations Accepted: January 7 - February 5, 2021 (by 11:59pm)

Awards Ceremony: March 5, 2021

### **Submitting a Nomination**

Complete the online nomination form [here](#).

- Nominations must be received by February 5, 2021 at 11:59pm.
- Late or incomplete forms will not be considered.
- Once submitted, nomination packages cannot be edited or altered.

## 2021 Award Categories and Descriptions

*\*\* Categories temporarily added to highlight COVID-19 Pandemic responses*

Essential Hero\*\* – Women who are committed to supporting their community in essential roles. Through the COVID-19 Pandemic, she exemplifies courage and kindness in a manner that inspires and encourages. She is recognized because she elevates the value of wellness and demonstrates leadership.

Community Champion\*\* – Women who, through a pandemic, are seen to be a source of innovation and strength in her community. In response to the pandemic, she exhibits strength, wisdom, and character that serve as an inspiration to those around her. She leverages her success to improve and enrich her community. She is motivated to make real change and facilitate opportunities for others.

Arts, Culture and Heritage - Women making a significant contribution to their respective disciplines; achieving or contributing to artistic excellence; or substantially contributing to building the cultural vibrancy of our community.

Athletics - Women who demonstrate excellence in performance, overcoming hardship, or a building a legacy in sport and society; outstanding role models who use their achievements in sport as a catalyst to inspire positive change.

Community Enhancement - Women who epitomize the best spirit of local community service. Her volunteer work has had a transformational effect on our community.

Education and Mentorship - Women who demonstrate exemplary success in education or mentorship through an exceptional ability to inspire and support students or protégés to reach crucial milestones.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation - Women who have built successful businesses and become inspirational leaders and a role models for other women. Women creating and implementing innovative programs, practices, partnerships, policies or activities that significantly improve the lives of women or our community.

Leadership and Management - Women with exemplary achievements beyond the scope of their paid work that improve their workplaces, professions, or community. She reaches beyond her professional expectations to inspire, mentor, and enable others to improve their community.

Science, Technology, Engineering, or Math - Women who are leaders in their field with significant accomplishments in a range of disciplines from science and technology through the social sciences and humanities. Her career achievements have contributed significantly to advancing her field.

Wellness, Recreation and Healthy Living - Women with exemplary accomplishments in promoting wellness, healthy living, or public recreation. Women whose work to mentor and engage others in committing to wellness, recreation and healthy living is significantly improving the lives of women or our community.

Young Woman of Promise - Women under thirty who set an example for others through exemplary achievements in academics, career, or community building. She inspires others to follow her example and sets the pace for others to walk alongside her. She is an advocate and leader who will continue to inspire us for years to come.

Lifetime Achievement - Women who have made substantial contributions that enhance the lives of women through a body of work that demonstrates exceptional accomplishments in multiple award categories. She is a role model who has tirelessly contributed to the community in many ways, for many years, as an advocate, volunteer, and/or mentor. She exhibits strength, wisdom, and character that serve as an inspiration.

## Nomination and Selection Information

### Nominee Criteria

- Nominees must:
  - Give consent in writing to her nomination.
  - Confirm the accuracy of the nomination information.
  - Consent to the publication of her name, photo, and video.
  - Be willing to contribute to promotions including a promotional video.
  - Be available to attend the Awards Ceremony on March 5, 2021 and deliver a brief acceptance speech.
- Nominee must be a woman living in Southern Alberta at the time of nomination who is 18 years of age or older by 11:59 pm on March 5, 2021.
- Previous recipients may be renominated after significant new achievements.
- Posthumous nominations cannot be accepted; posthumous awards will not be given.
- Neither the nominee nor the nominator may be a member of the YWCA Lethbridge & District Board of Directors or staff.

### Nominator Criteria

- The nominator can be any individual who is interested in nominating an eligible nominee.
- The nominator must fully complete the Nomination Form and submit it online by 11:59 pm on February 5, 2021.

### Selection Process

- Only nominations that are submitted within the deadline and meet the eligibility criteria will be reviewed.
- Nominations will be reviewed in deliberations and treated with confidentiality; other materials will not be accepted or considered.
- The Women of Distinction Selection Committee will consider each submission and determine who will be 2021 Women of Distinction Award Recipients. Decisions of the Women of Distinction Selection Committee are final.
- YWCA Lethbridge and District reserves the right to determine the number of Women of Distinction recipients in any year.
- Women of Distinction recipients will be notified by phone as soon as possible following the final selection process is complete. All other nominees will be notified by email within the same time period.
- All nomination submissions become property of the YWCA Lethbridge & District. Nomination information will be destroyed following the completion of the process.

For more information, please contact:

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