

World E-News June 2013



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Dear Readers and YMCA Leaders and Volunteers

In 2011 when we began with the New WAY, we set some challenges to ourselves in terms of improving our communications with the member movements and our various constituencies. We also set the target to explore and maximize the use of the social media and move into digital communication.

Over the last two years we published the 4 last issues of the YMCA World, our printed magazine with a focus on Youth empowerment work by our movements in the different Area organisations.

Early this year we launched a new platform for our Digital publication with a weekly publication on our website and a monthly E-newsletter sent in pdf to our subscribers.

In the meantime we have increased our presence in social media with extensive posting of YMCA activities on Facebook, Twitter and with my Blog.

In order to reflect our ambition for a better positioning of our world movement as the leading youth organisation, we will soon have in place an assistant to Mr. Romulo Dantas with a focus on communications strategy and advocacy.

As our communications team develops we are looking forward to more interaction with you.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik

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Moving Forward - Plan Y and the 101st AGM of the Canadian YMCA

- June 19, 2013



Most organizations develop a strategic plan to lay out the organization's direction and strategies to move forward. But when a federation like the YMCA in Canada - a network of 51 independent Associations - develops a strategic plan for the federation as a whole, it's more than a plan. [PLAN Y](#) is the expression of a vision by YMCA leaders that Associations can contribute more to Canada by working more closely together. Plan Y outlines this vision to build a stronger YMCA for a stronger Canada.

An exciting element of [Plan Y](#) is the Global Reach Strategy. For the next four years, the YMCA in Canada will be stepping up opportunities for leadership learning and development through our global initiatives such as the ongoing partnership work with the YMCAs in Africa, Latin America as well as the [Africa Alliance of YMCAs](#) and [LACA \(Alianza Latinoamericana y del Caribe\)](#)

This year's Annual General Meeting in Toronto, attended by nearly 300 people, helped us put the last pieces in place to formally implement PLAN Y.

Here are some other AGM highlights:

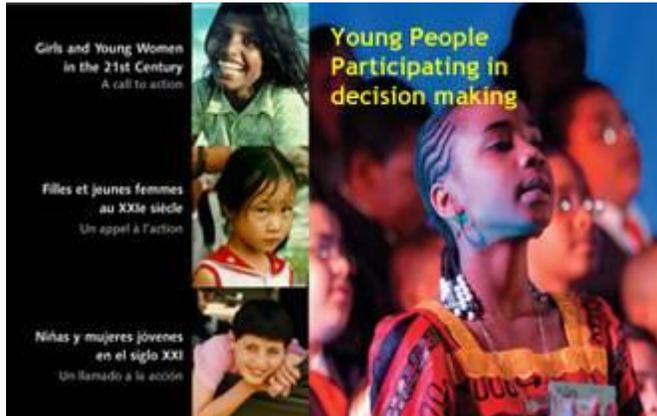
- [Marilyn Kapitany, National Board Chair and Scott Haldane, President and CEO](#) provided a warm welcome.
- Delegates were inspired by keynote speeches from [Romulo Dantas \(World Alliance of YMCAs\)](#) and [National Chief Shawn A-in-Chut Atleo \(Assembly of First Nations\)](#).
- [Patricia Pelton](#), Canada's Elected Representative to the World Alliance of YMCAs, presented her 2012 report.
- Delegates were entertained by two wonderful musical performances by Sean Sonogo ([Friday](#), [Saturday](#)) and [Damian Yonge](#), as well as dance performances from BreakReation/ [ArtHouse](#).
- At the Young Leaders Forum, which took place just before the AGM, sixty YMCA leaders from across Canada brainstormed ideas for their work in the coming year. [A report from the Young Leaders Forum was presented to the AGM and can be viewed here.](#)

Interested in learning more about the work of the YMCA in Canada? Check out [YMCA Canada's 2012 Annual Report available online](#) as well as [Federation Facts](#)

Mary Anne Roche, VP, International, YMCA Canada

The Alliance of the largest Youth Organisations

- June 26, 2013



You are certainly familiar with the airline alliances such as One World, Skyteam and Star Alliance. An airline alliance is an agreement between airlines to cooperate on a substantial level. They provide a network of connectivity and convenience for international passengers through codeshare agreements, allowing a larger range of destinations to be served, and can also allow loyalty programs to be shared across different carriers.

In term of youth work there is such an Alliance informally called the Big 6. The alliance of the biggest youth organisations is officially called the Alliance of Youth Chief Executive Officers. Collectively, this network reaches over 100 million young people in over 200 countries and territories.

The members of the Alliance are:

[IAA - International Award Association](#)

[IFRC - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](#) [WAGGS - World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts](#)

[WOSM - World Organization of the Scout Movement](#)

[World YWCA - World Young Women's Christian Association](#)

[World Alliance of YMCAs](#)

Created in 1996, the main goal of the Alliance is to work together on policy issues affecting young people. And the CEOs meet once a year, hosted by one of the organisations.

This year the meeting was hosted by WAGGS, in London .

The discussions focussed on how to move forward with matters of common interest with a focus on Young People.

Over the past years the Alliance has published the following position and education papers:

> [The Education of Young People. A Statement at the Dawn of the 21st Century, 1997](#)

> [National Youth Policies. Towards an Autonomous, Supportive, Responsible and Committed Youth, 1999](#)

> [Girls and Young Women in the 21st Century, 2001](#)

> [A Call to Action. Children and Young People - Participating in Decision-Making, 2005](#)

In their meeting this year, the CEOs of the “Big 6” decided that the future of their cooperation would be more about opening and facilitating opportunities for young people, than to develop resource material on different issues as in the past. It was further decided that the theme for the next meeting, would be, Youth Empowerment.

This meeting will be hosted by the World Alliance of YMCA in Geneva early December 2013.

The Current CEOs of the Alliance are:

- > IAA - International Award Association: Mr John May
- > IFRC - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies: Mr Bekele Geleta
- > WAGGGS - World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts: Ms Mary McPhail
- > WOSM - World Organization of the Scout Movement: Mr Scott Teare
- > World YWCA - World Young Women's Christian Association. Ms Nyaradzayi Gmbonzvanda
- > World Alliance of YMCAs: Rev. Johan Vilhelm Eltvik

Have you heard about the Alliance before?

What do you think about their decision to focus on “opening and facilitating opportunities for young people “ ? Send your remarks to: comment@ymca.int

From Managua, thought and heart

- June 14, 2013



International Conference, Managua - Nicaragua - 27 April - 6 May 2013

The days between 27 April 27 and 6 May 2013 were filled with learnings, teachings, courage and love; a path travelled together with general secretaries, professionals, volunteers, mentors and friends who were able to take from this experience lessons for the intellect, soul and heart.

Nicaragua's capital city, Managua, received us warmly with a 35°C temperature and a YMCA full of fraternity, commitment and care. The first five days we stayed at a camp and participated in the "Agents of Change and transformative governance" workshop. This activity is part of the Youth in Governance Roles (YGOR) Program which has adapted the Agents of Change component to the Latin American and Caribbean context.

After that we moved over to the city of Managua to join the International Conference and Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee of LACA, where we had to put into practice all that we had learned!

We highlight the opportunity we had as a group of young people to be seated alongside our national and regional representatives to take part in all discussions. We think that this is the youth empowerment we are looking for: Where we talk as youth but with a conscious maturity and with the same level of legitimacy as adults.

During this time, crucial moments were given to exchange views and positions or defend ideas and most importantly to express the idea that we as youth should not have to imitate adults to be taken into account and treated with respect.

During the days we were in Nicaragua we learned more about politics and democracy, and how to apply these concepts within the YMCA. This was an important addition to our previous studies on international relations.

We learned that we will all stop being young one day but that only needs to be evident in our faces, not in our hearts. We learned that it is important that we understand that all generations are crucial and should work together.

We understood that we are the ones who will continue George Williams' legacy and consequently that we must gain spaces with respect, care and lots of inter-generational construction. We have had the opportunity to learn from the best teachers during this process and through our other experiences so we should utilise their teachings as we move forward.

Also we highlight the World Alliance of YMCAs determination to see youth helping themselves and each other to make changes in their lives and to be the change they wish to create. We really appreciate that people throughout the world are trusting in us, as young people, to improve our YMCAs. It is an honour and a challenging path that we are more than willing to travel.

Today, we have begun to rescue the dreams and hopes of youth and at the same time connect them with the dreams and hopes of directors and adult members of the organisation. This is a move forward for human relations in the 21st Century; we doubt that other organisations in the world are doing the work that the regional and world YMCAs are doing. In our opinion, this project positions the YMCA as a reference point for other movement in the areas of youth, volunteerism and inter-generational human relations.

Being a change agent is to be a person interested in helping others, to know how to change and to continue to maintain an active involvement in change initiatives. Being an agent provides us with the opportunity to communicate to our communities that our movement is much more than what they see... to say to them that we believe in a better future with more opportunities for all and to achieve that we all have to work together.

By being willing to improve daily, we can begin to live to inspire love and with our common aim we can begin to inspire the world to be better.

From global citizenship, being a change agent is to build the change together with friends from different places, for all our communities. It is to ensure that we globally position the YMCA as reference point for the service needs facing the youth of the

21st Century.

We learned that to be effective promoters of change we must have good governance and that implies the need to create good power relations between the people and organisms that make decisions. We think that the more diverse the universe of people opining, the more democratic the governance space is going to be.

A transformative governance is one which seeks to generate a change in what has been ongoing, it is about changing the given for something that can be better. The best way to achieve this is to allow decision-making processes to be more democratic and to not just allow room for those with access to give their opinion and see what they propose automatically materialised.

Finally, within all the learning we experienced in Managua, there was also party, food, sightseeing and music. Learning and celebration together created the perfect combination, one that will never be forgotten, a tattoo to the heart, a way to go and a life dedicate to our YMCA.

By Aylin, Nathalia, Maria Camila, Geomara, Cristiano and Silvana

YMCA England appoints Denise Hatton as new Chief Executive

- June 26, 2013



YMCA England is pleased to announce the appointment of **Denise Hatton (photo)** as its National Secretary and CEO.

Denise was appointed Interim Chief Executive in January after the departure of Ian Green. Her career with YMCA spans more than 25 years, during which time she has held a variety of local, regional and national roles. She is also Governor of YMCA George Williams College and on the Board of Y Care International.

Commenting on Denise's appointment, Chair of YMCA England, Peter Jeffrey, said: "We are delighted to confirm Denise as our permanent Chief Executive. She brings with her a great deal of knowledge about the organisation and a wealth of experience in the sector.

"Denise's appointment comes at a very exciting time for YMCA as we continue to develop our national brand, work on the next stage of strategic development and strengthen relationships with the 121 member YMCAs around the country."

Denise Hatton said: "I am delighted to be leading the organisation at a time when we are looking to increase the delivery of more innovative services to our communities. I want the YMCA in England to have a vibrant and passionate voice in national and local government and for YMCA England to continue supporting them by sharing standards of excellence and best practice. This way we can ensure all young people feel they truly belong, contribute and thrive."

Denise was previously Chief Executive at YMCA Thames Gateway for nine years. She is currently Chair of the Dartford and Gravesham Third Sector Forum and Vice Chair of

the Dartford Children's Trust.