



Shine On **Y** YOUNG WOMEN

women  
of  
distinction™

# WOMEN OF DISTINCTION™ 2026

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**NOMINATION  
ELIGIBILITY &  
PROCESS**

## WHO IS A WOMAN OF DISTINCTION™?

A Woman of Distinction™ is someone who has made a commitment to, and a significant difference in, their community by showing vision, creativity and initiative. They may have:

- Shown an innovative approach to challenges facing women, girls and gender diverse individuals and the wider community.
- Been a role model and inspired others through their leadership.
- Broken new ground or old barriers, and been an agent for change.
- Participated actively as a volunteer.
- Made an impact in their chosen field or endeavour.
- Assisted others to be successful in their achievements.
- Inspired and encouraged women to take part in shaping the future of their own lives and their communities.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Support the mission and values of YMCA of Three Rivers.

Consent to be nominated.

Live and/or work in Guelph-Wellington but may have made their contributions within or beyond these borders.

Not have received a past Women of Distinction™ Award (exception: Nominees for Lifetime Achievement Award may have been previously honoured).

Not be a current member of the YMCA of Three Rivers Board of Directors, employee of YMCA of Three Rivers, or member of the Women of Distinction™ Planning or Selection Committee.

For the special awards of 'Lifetime Achievement' Award and 'Young Trailblazer' Award, there are some additional eligibility requirements (see details listed below under Award Categories).

Please note that while we honour the YWCA Women of Distinction™ title and program legacy, any individual who identifies as a woman or non-binary person is eligible.

One complete copy of the nomination package is required and must be submitted by the deadline (11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2026) to be eligible for consideration. Please note that posthumous applications cannot be accepted, and all nomination packages must be for only one nominee.

Our YMCA of Three Rivers will award up to five (5) Women of Distinction™ awards, in addition to two (2) special award categories. Nominees for the special categories must fall within this age range by December 31, 2025.

## SPECIAL AWARD CATEGORIES

### YOUNG TRAILBLAZER AWARD (25 and under)

This award honours a young woman or gender diverse individual age 25 or under who shows leadership at school, in the community and/or in their workplace. A Young Trailblazer is an exceptional leader and inspiration to their generation. They challenge the status quo, understand and address community issues and inspire others to do the same.

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (55 plus)

This award honours a woman or gender diverse individual age 55 years or older who has made significant and varied contributions to their community. They are a role model who has tirelessly contributed to their community in many ways, for many years, as an advocate, volunteer and/or mentor. They exhibit strength, wisdom and character that serves as an inspiration to those around them. This nominee may have been previously recognized as a Woman of Distinction™.

## NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS

One complete copy of the nomination package is required and must be submitted by the deadline (11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 9, 2026) to be eligible for consideration.

A previously unsuccessful nominee can be re-nominated in any future year, but they cannot be a past recipient of a Women of Distinction™ award. The exception to this is nominations for our Lifetime Achievement Award.

## SUBMISSION PROCESS

Completed nomination packages can be formally submitted using the following methods:

- **EMAIL:** Download the fillable PDF to complete electronically and email to [giving@ytr.ymca.ca](mailto:giving@ytr.ymca.ca).
- **IN-PERSON:** Print a hard copy of the PDF to complete by hand, and hand deliver your complete package to our Front Desk team at our Guelph YMCA building (130 Woodland Glen Drive) during regular business hours.

We highly recommend that you record your application information in a Word or text document before submission so that you have a backup copy of the information you have submitted with the application.

## SELECTION PROCESS

All nomination packages will be reviewed by our Women of Distinction™ Selection Committee, who will choose the award recipients based on the submitted information only, using a standardized scoring system. Please be thorough and factual in your submission. All nomination packages will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

Once selection is completed, our YMCA of Three Rivers Selection Committee will inform the nominator and nominees of the results. If you consent to your submission being shared with your nominee, we would be delighted to relay this to them after selection is completed; past honourees have shared that this is a very meaningful part of the experience.

There will be a formal announcement of this year's newest Women of Distinction™ honourees on International Women's Day (Sunday, March 8, 2026).

## WHAT IF MY NOMINEE IS NOT SUCCESSFUL?

We recognize how much effort it takes to compile a strong submission, so the Selection Committee encourages you to retain the package and re-submit in future years. If the Selection Committee has specific feedback about your package that they feel may make it stronger in future years, they may offer that feedback.

You and your nominee are welcome to join our 2026 Women of Distinction™ event to share and celebrate the collective power and strength of the women in our community. There will be an acknowledgement of all nominators and nominees at the event, and we look forward to applauding you.