



Did you catch the news last week? It was extremely exciting to have Premier Ed Stelmach and Honourable Yvonne Fritz, Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, announce a wonderful grant for the YMCA.

The Welcome Village will become a reality! Two years of hard work by Franco Savoia, our CEO and his Housing Team of Joan Baker, Jen Paton and Scott Smillie has yielded a grant from the Province of Alberta that is **almost \$25 million**. With our other partners - the City of Edmonton, Capital Region Housing Corporation, the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation and Inner City Youth Development Association, this Phase One component of the City's [Boyle Renaissance Project](#) becomes a reality.

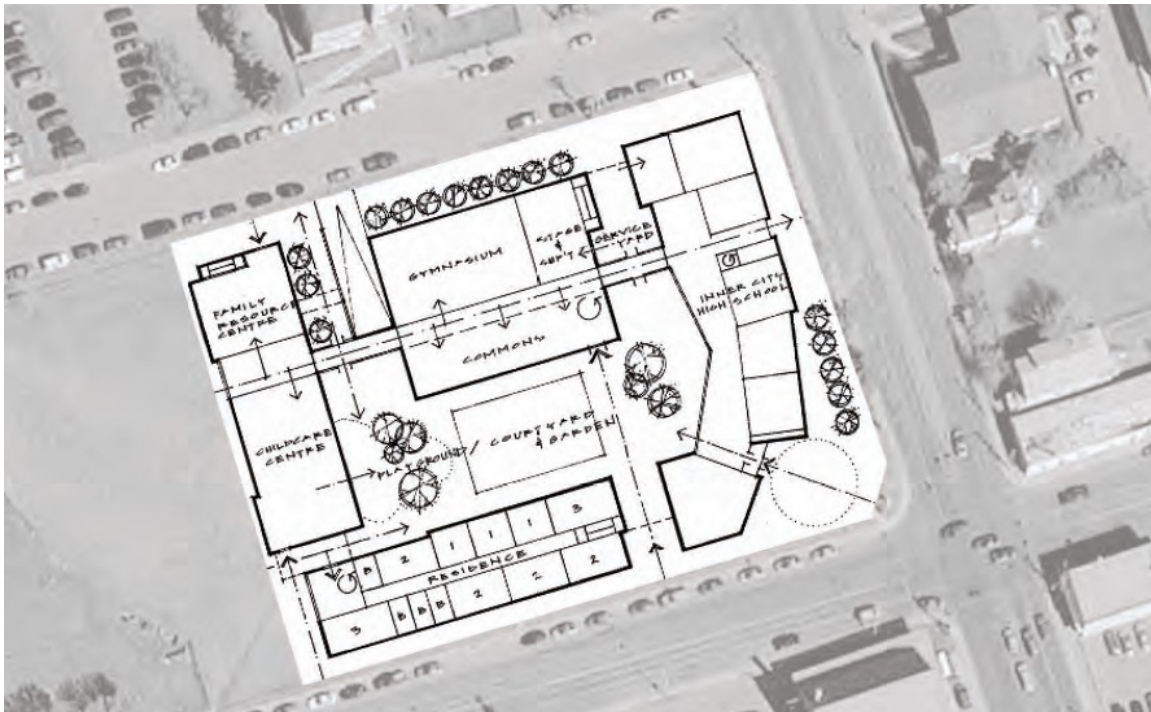
The YMCA will provide **150 new housing units for singles and families** in the project, located approximately two and a half city blocks between 95 Street and 96 Street, from 103A Avenue north to the LRT tracks. But it's more than just housing - it's *transitional* housing! There will be all the **services and support** needed to help Edmontonians who have struggled to keep a roof over their heads. We will give them a "hand up" to move onwards to permanent accommodation. Our YMCA staff will help them make that transition and be successful in staying in their new abode.

Another component of this program will include space for youth attending the **Inner City High School**. For over 15 years, Mr. Joe Cloutier has operated the Inner City High School in the Boyle McCauley community hall. The parent organization of this charter school is the Inner City Youth Development Association. They will receive a new school with the support of the Edmonton Oiler's Community Foundation. **The plan is to work together with the school and determine what space might be shared.** It is critical that the school be able to continue the programming under conditions that are

satisfactory to Joe and his board of directors. This process will be spearheaded by the city planning department.

And the community will benefit too! There will be a **child care facility**. There will be **indoor – outdoor play space**. The YMCA will have a **family resource centre** to help families learn about parenting and nutrition. Outdoor parks will be preserved!

The project will be sensitive to the concerns and needs of the residents of the Boyle McCauley neighbourhood. That is a critical must and the YMCA of Edmonton and its partners will not fail the community in that regard. When the planning is finished and the partners and the community are in agreement construction will yield a “renaissance” on a troubled piece of land east of the police station.



When you celebrate the Holiday Season this year, pause for a moment. Think about this wonderful “**gift that will keep on giving**” to citizens of Edmonton who are on the fringe.

Merry Christmas!

John Lilley
Chair of the volunteer Board of the YMCA of Edmonton