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June 4, 2020

Re: Letter of Concern - YMCA Closure

To Whom It May Concern:

Yesterday's announcement of the YMCA closure in the Town of Yarmouth came as a shock to the greater swimming community.

Swim Nova Scotia is distraught that the Yarmouth Y Whitecaps will lose their home and have a very high risk of losing their swim team altogether. They are a club with a rich history of tremendous leaders not only the pool, but leaders outside of the pool in their local communities, Provincially and across the Country.

From a broader perspective, swimming in general has so much to offer to many people of all ages and demographics. Swimming is an essential lifesaving skill, it provides the ability to lead an active lifestyle for those with limited mobility concerns and is a lifelong activity. Not only is it essential that every child learns to swim and how to be water safe, but there are so many levels of swimming and benefits that come along the way. Children should have access to a pool in their community so they can be introduced to swimming at an early age and carry that skill with them for their entire life. Not only will it improve their physical health, but also their mental health.

I hope the YMCA and the Municipality can reconsider yesterday's announcement and work with key stakeholders and government officials at all levels to review alternatives that offer a viable solution other than to close the doors to the only swimming pool in your community.

If there is any support that can be provided by our organization in your future meetings, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B Hawary". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bette El-Hawary
Executive Director
Swim Nova Scotia