

Award Categories

Women of Distinction 2027

Women of Distinction Awards

The Women of Distinction Awards recognize women and gender-diverse individuals who have made a meaningful and lasting impact in Southern Saskatchewan through their commitment, leadership, and dedication to community. Honourees demonstrate vision, creativity, and initiative—whether through outstanding achievement in their field, breaking new ground, overcoming barriers, or acting as agents for change.

Women of Distinction may volunteer their time, lead with compassion and purpose, serve as positive role models, or provide mentorship to girls, women, and gender-diverse people. They stand out in their communities for their contributions and their commitment to creating a more just, inclusive, and equitable future. Individuals are recognized for their impact in one of the following award categories:

Women Breaking Barriers

This award honours a woman or group of women or gender diverse individuals who are breaking ground and overcoming barriers in a non-traditional field — defined as any industry where women and gender diverse folks make up 25% or less of the workforce. They have made a significant, sustained impact in Southern Saskatchewan, creating opportunities for other women and gender diverse people and are paving the way for future leaders. Their work uplifts and inspires others to succeed in spaces where women and gender diverse people have historically been underrepresented. They may be working in STEM, agriculture, trades, construction, or any other non-traditional industry.

Corporate Innovation

This award honours a woman or group of women or gender diverse folks whose achievements in business demonstrate a commitment to excellence, innovation, and leadership. They embrace new ideas, drive positive change, and have a proven track record of success in their field. Through their leadership, they advocate for and support the advancement of other women and

gender diverse folks in business, fostering workplaces where they can thrive. They may be a founder, owner, executive, entrepreneur, or leader within their industry.

Indigenous Resurgence in Action

This award honours a woman or group of women or gender diverse individuals committed to advancing Indigenous cultural resurgence and reconciliation in meaningful and lasting ways. They have made a significant difference through language revitalization, cultural teachings, advocacy, and relationship-building within her community. Their work strengthens cultural identity and advocates to find a new way forward. They may be a knowledge keeper, educator, advocate, cultural leader, or community organizer.

Igniting Equity

This award will honour a woman or group of women or gender diverse folks who are creating lasting, measurable impact by improving equity and inclusion for underserved groups within the community. They challenge systems of oppression and advocate for marginalized individuals, helping to remove barriers and build more inclusive spaces. Their leadership empowers others to rise and contributes to meaningful, community-driven change. They may be a community leader, advocate, program creator, educator, or social justice champion.

Enriching Education

This award honours a woman or group of women or gender diverse individuals inspiring a passion for learning, growth, and empowerment in others. They have made a lasting impact through education, training, community programming, or mentorship, motivating others to pursue knowledge and reach their potential. Their work creates opportunities for lifelong learning and strengthens the communities they serve. They may be an educator, administrator, mentor, volunteer, program leader, or advocate for education.

Young Emerging Changemaker

This award honours a young woman or group of women or gender diverse people aged 14-25 in Southern Saskatchewan who have made a meaningful and lasting difference in their field of work, their education, or community. They demonstrate leadership, compassion, and resilience,

while pursuing their passions and advocating for causes that matter to them. Their actions create ripples of positive change and inspire others to get involved. They may be a student, volunteer, entrepreneur, artist, activist, or youth leader.

Community Champion

This award will honour a woman or group of women or gender diverse folks who have identified a community need or issue and initiated meaningful change, dedicating time and resources towards championing their cause. They inspire and mobilize others through her personal commitment and passion, either in her volunteering or paid role. They have made a significant and sustained difference while being recognized as a source of strength and heart in the community. They may be a community member or another leader contributing to change.

Creative Impact

This award will honour a woman, group of women or gender-diverse individual who enriches their community through the arts, including visual, literary, multimedia, cultural heritage, journalism, or performing arts. They use their creativity as a tool for impact—uplifting the voices and experiences of women, girls, and gender-diverse people. Whether through their own artistic practice or by creating space for others, they foster expression, inspires connection, and strengthens community through the power of the arts.

2027 Nomination Guidelines

Women of Distinction 2027

The **deadline for all 2027 nominations is **October 2, 2026***

Do you know an outstanding woman, group of women, or gender-diverse individual who deserves recognition? We invite you to nominate an individual who is making a meaningful impact in Southern Saskatchewan. The YWCA Regina Women of Distinction Awards celebrate women and gender-diverse individuals who are driving innovation, using their voices, talents, and leadership to create positive change in their communities.

As our largest annual fundraiser, this event directly supports the essential community programs YWCA Regina provides for youth, gender-diverse individuals, and families. Funds raised help break down barriers, promote safety and security, empower children and youth, and amplify the voices and experiences of women, gender-diverse individuals, and their families across our community.

Who is a Woman of Distinction?

The Women of Distinction Awards recognize women and gender-diverse individuals who have made a meaningful and lasting impact in Southern Saskatchewan through their commitment, leadership, and dedication to community. Honourees demonstrate vision, creativity, and initiative—whether through outstanding achievement in their field, breaking new ground, overcoming barriers, or acting as agents for change.

Women of Distinction may volunteer their time, lead with compassion and purpose, serve as positive role models, or provide mentorship to girls, women, and gender-diverse people. They stand out in their communities for their contributions and their commitment to creating a more just, inclusive, and equitable future.

Nominees may have:

- Driven meaningful change in their community or field
- Achieved outstanding success in their chosen profession or area of impact
- Broken new ground and overcome barriers in their industry or community
- Excelled in a non-traditional role or sector
- Led by example to create positive change and inspire others
- Contributed meaningfully through volunteerism or community involvement
- Made significant and sustained contributions to their community
- Served as a leader and positive role model
- Provided mentorship to women, girls, and/or gender-diverse individuals
- Used their voice to speak out on injustice and advocate for change

We strongly encourage nominations for women from the Black community, Indigenous community; non-binary; two spirit, gender and sexually diverse community; for women who are

racialized or living with disabilities; as well as newcomers and youth. These awards honour ALL women.

Nominee Criteria

**Please read all information carefully*

- The nominee must be a woman or gender-diverse individuals living in Southern Saskatchewan at the time of the nomination. Southern Saskatchewan is considered the area south of Davidson.
- Posthumous nominations cannot be accepted.
- Any nominee submission for all categories except the Young Emerging Changemaker must be a woman, gender-diverse individual or group of women who is 18 years of age or older as of 11:59 pm on Friday October 2,2026.
- All nominees for the Young Emerging Changemaker Award must be between 14-25 years of age as of 11:59pm on Friday October 2,2026.
- A woman or gender-diverse individual may be a nominee in only one category each year.
- Past award recipients cannot be nominated again as an individual but may be part of a group nomination.
- Nominees must align with YWCA Regina's purpose, aspiration, and values. In group nominations, each woman or gender-diverse individual included and recognized as part of the group must meet this standard, individually.
- To avoid conflict of interest, the nominee may not be a member of the Women of Distinction Committee, the Values Alignment Committee or Selections Committees, YWCA Regina Board of Directors or YWCA Regina staff.

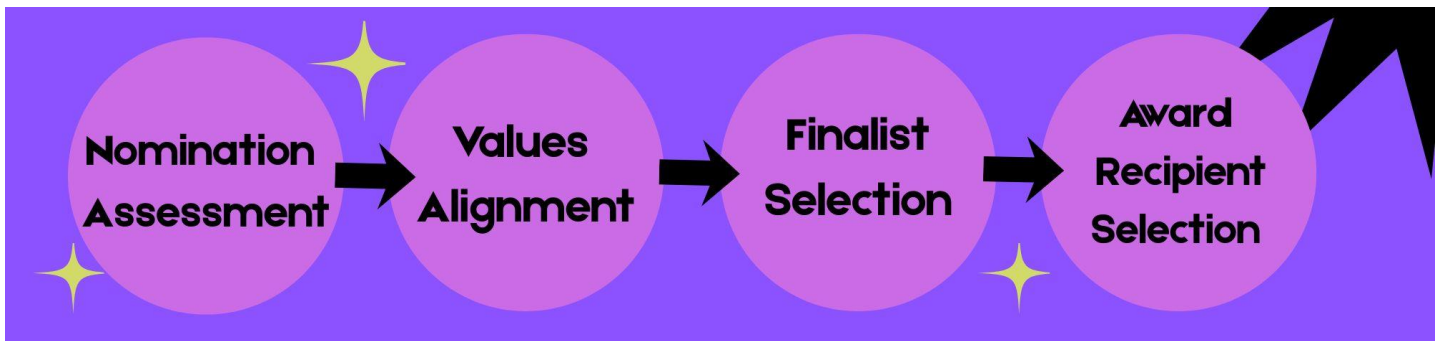
Submitting a Nomination

**Please read all information carefully*

- The deadline for the 2027 Women of Distinction Nominations is **11:59pm on October 2,2026.**
- Late submissions will not be considered.
- Incomplete forms will not be considered. All supporting documents must be submitted by the deadline for a nomination to be considered complete.
- Once submitted, nomination packages cannot be edited or altered.
- Nominees **MUST** be informed of their nomination and consent to being nominated. YWCA Regina will be contacting all nominees to confirm consent.

- Nominees should review their nomination form for accuracy. If at any time the information provided in the nomination form is determined to be false the YWCA Regina reserves the right to remove the nominee from the applicant pool.
- Nominees must be informed that if chosen as a finalist they are required to participate in headshots (January 2027), a video interview (January 2027) and their attendance is required at all Women of Distinction Events (April & May 2027). Failure to participate in these activities may lead to their removal as a finalist.

Have questions? Reach out to us at events@ywcaregina.com



Awards Process

Nomination Adjudication Process

- Nominations are reviewed when they are received to confirm their eligibility (ie: All fields of the application are filled out and supporting documents have been received).
- Upon assessment of a nominee's application the YWCA Regina reserves the right to move the nominee into a category that is better suited.
- **The Values Alignment Committee retains the right to refuse or remove nominees that do not align with the purpose, aspiration, and values of the YWCA Regina.**
 - YWCA Regina honours individuals whose actions and values align with our commitment to equity, safety and inclusion. While nominees are not expected to embody every aspect of our work, they must not demonstrate behaviours, affiliations, or public positions that contradict or undermined these principles.

- There is no guarantee a nominee will be chosen as a finalist.

Finalist Adjudication & Award Selection Process

- Qualifying nominees are presented to the Selections Committee. **This committee is separate from YWCA Regina and the Values Alignment Committee.**
- Committee members are selected to provide fair and diverse representation, reflecting a balance of interests, influences and expertise.
- Finalists for each category are selected based upon the strength of the application in relation to the category in which they are submitted. Only information included within the package will inform adjudication.
- All deliberations of the Selections Committee will be treated confidentially, and the decisions of the Selections Committee are final.
- If a Finalist or Award recipient becomes unaligned with the YWCA Regina's purpose, aspiration or values at any time the YWCA Regina reserves the right to remove them as a finalist and/or as an Award Recipient. They will be notified of this decision.
- If it is found at any time that a finalist and/or Award Recipient has provided false information in relation to their nomination they will be removed as a Finalist and/or Award Recipient. They will be notified of this decision.

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