



## **YWCA YELLOWKNIFE APPEALS FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ELDERLY IN JAPAN**

**Yellowknife, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** As the misery of post-earthquake and tsunami life in northern Japan continues, along with the threat of nuclear contamination, YWCA Yellowknife is calling on northerners to help in two ways.

YWCA Japan is asking for donations of money to buy food, water and blankets that are urgently needed in the devastated areas. There are YWCAs in both Sendai and Fukushima. While access to those areas is limited, staff at the national YWCA Japan office is investigating ways to provide food, water and blankets to the affected areas in a second wave of support, following rescue and emergency services.

Contributions can be made by bank transfer directly to YWCA Japan (see the information here: <http://www.ywca.or.jp/earthquakeenglish.html> ) or they can be made to YWCA Yellowknife to forward to Japan. Donations of \$20 or more via YWCA Yellowknife are eligible for a tax receipt. YWCA Yellowknife is located at 4904-54 Ave. Donate online at [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org).

YWCA Yellowknife has kicked off this appeal with a \$5000 donation. “It’s important that we pay special attention to women, children and elders to ensure they get the support they need to survive this disaster,” says Yasemin Heyck, YWCA Yellowknife’s president.

“We have a special relationship with YWCA Japan who sent a delegation to visit Yellowknife about 15 years ago,” says YWCA Yellowknife executive director Lyda Fuller. “We want to do all we can to support our sisters in Japan in their efforts to help earthquake and tsunami survivors,” she says.

YWCA Japan is also calling on friends and supporters to send e-mails to the national and prefecture governments, as well as the power companies, demanding power plants in Niigata and Shizuoka be shut down. Those areas have been subject to strong aftershocks, and there are fears that if they aren’t shut down, they may contribute to the growing nuclear contamination problem. Please see this site for addresses and sample letters: [www.ywca.or.jp/image/eaction.pdf](http://www.ywca.or.jp/image/eaction.pdf)

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Lyda Fuller at [lyda@ywcanwt.ca](mailto:lyda@ywcanwt.ca) or at 920-2777 ext 310.

## **BACKGROUND**

**About YWCA Japan:** Founded in 1905, YWCA Japan has developed programs to educate women and to assume their place in a democratic society. Vocational training is still a focus of service. Since the 1960s, YWCA Japan has

been an outspoken opponent of nuclear power and in recent years has advocated for protection of natural resources and understanding of sustainable development.

**About YWCA Yellowknife:** In addition to emergency and transitional housing for families, YWCA Yellowknife is the largest provider of residential support for people with disabilities, with 22 clients living in six homes, and another 14 people served in their own homes by outreach staff. YWCA Yellowknife also operates Yellowknife's only family violence shelter, the 12-bed Alison McAteer House. We also offer confidence-building programs for girls and fee-for-service after-school programs for children ages 5 to 11 at every school in the city. YWCA Yellowknife has been serving the people of the north since 1966. See our website at [www.ywcanwt.ca](http://www.ywcanwt.ca) and follow us on Facebook (YWCA Yellowknife) and Twitter (@YWCAYK)