



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Building Together: Georgian College and the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka Host Informational Sessions for Community Innovation Network

Simcoe County, ON – Thursday, May 9 | Together, Georgian College and the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka are committed to co-creating a new standard for collaboration, inclusivity and community innovation within our communities. As part of this initiative, Georgian College and the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka will be hosting two informational sessions and invite community organizations to learn more about how to participate.

“Through working together across social and cultural communities, we have an incredible opportunity to explore what a future-ready, inclusive landscape might look like,” said Nicole Norris, Director, Social Innovation, Georgian College. “At these sessions, we’ll focus on how to make the landscape strongly sustainable through an innovation ecosystem that applies the social factors of health as its measures of flourishing.”

The two upcoming sessions – May 22 and May 28 – aim to engage and involve community organizations in the Future of Belonging initiative.

The sessions follow a recent announcement by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka and Georgian at the college’s Research, Innovation, Scholarship and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Symposium. The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka and Georgian’s Social Innovation unit are taking steps forward with the launch of a Community Innovation Network, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the region that will explore how various community services can maintain relevancy into the future, as well as how they can collaborate to cause change and bring agency to underrepresented groups.

“Our collaboration with Georgian College is about harnessing the strength of our community to co-create innovative solutions that truly meet the needs of our diverse population. We invite community organizations to join us in shaping the future of community-driven innovation together,” said Pamela Marck, Vice President of the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka.

Next steps: Informational sessions

- **Date:** Wednesday, May 22, 2024.
- **Time:** 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- **Location:** Sandbox Centre, 24 Maple Ave., 2nd Floor, Barrie, ON, L4M 7W4.
- [Register online](#) to attend in person or virtually.

- **Date:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024.
- **Time:** 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **Location:** Sandbox Centre, 24 Maple Ave., 2nd Floor, Barrie, ON, L4M 7W4.

- [Register online](#) to attend in person only.

These sessions will serve as platforms for a project overview, dialogue, and the presentation of opportunities for how to get involved in this project and redefine community-driven innovation in the region.

For more information about the Future of Belonging project, visit futureofbelonging.ca.

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About the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

The YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka is a charity dedicated to building healthy communities. We are committed to nurturing the potential of children, youth and families, promoting healthy living and fostering social responsibility within the community. We serve 1 in 5 people throughout Simcoe County and the District of Parry Sound and Muskoka. In keeping with our commitment to inclusiveness and accessibility, the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka offers financial assistance to those unable to afford program fees, including thousands of children and youth who experience YMCA camps and programs each year. For more information, please visit www.ymcaofsimcoemuskoka.ca.

About Georgian College

Georgian is MORE than an education – it’s an experience. The college offers 130+ market-driven programs, from degrees and diplomas, to certificates, apprenticeships, corporate training and more. A recognized leader in student work experience, our graduate employment rate – 90.3 per cent – is in the top 3 for Ontario colleges. Georgian graduates continue to play a pivotal role in meeting the demand for a highly qualified workforce. We’re the first – and only – college in Canada designated a changemaker college by Ashoka U for our role as a leader in social innovation and changemaking in higher education. GeorgianCollege.ca

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