

**YMCA of Fredericton Peace Week (November 12 – 19, 2022)**  
**Announcing Nicki Lyons-MacFarlane as recipient of Peace Medallion**

*Peace to me, means that everyone has the ability to be themselves, and to be harmonious. Peace is the ability for people to exist, and for people to laugh, work, and play together without judgement or fear.*

- Nicki Lyons-MacFarlane

This year, the YMCA of Fredericton is pleased to announce that the recipient of the Peace Medallion is **Nicki Lyons-MacFarlane**. Nicki understands that the responsibility of peace begins with each person, in relationship with family and friends, and extends to community life. Nicki has been a leader and peacemaker in their community, volunteering their time and expertise with many Fredericton organizations such as **Imprint Youth Association, UNIFOR, Capital Youth Hub** and the provincial **NDP's Rainbow Board**. Aside from tirelessly working with these organizations, Nicki has been lending their voice and action to advocate for affordable housing for all and inclusive health care for trans and gender-diverse patients.

Nicki is described as a person with contagious enthusiasm, and eternal optimism. Nicki is known to step up to the plate when others cannot and they make sure that no one feels left out. Inclusion for all is a value that is important to Nicki and Nicki is there to amplify the voices of those that feel marginalized. "What can I do?" is Nicki's mantra.

Nicki started volunteering with Imprint Youth Association in 2018. By 2020, they were serving the board of directors as co-Chair and now, in 2022 is the Chair for Imprint Youth Association,. In this capacity, Nicki ensures that 2SLGBTQIA+ youth and young adults receive the resources and spaces that allow them to thrive as their authentic selves. Through Imprint Youth Association, Nicki has been able to forge partnerships with various Fredericton groups to move towards a common goal of improved services and opportunities for Fredericton's queer youth. For example, Nicki was instrumental in securing funding from Women and Gender Equality Canada to launch "Two Spirit, Queer and Trans Pathways New Brunswick", a 2-year project developed through a partnership between Imprint and other local health care providers. Nicki is volunteering countless hours to get this project up and running, and it will serve as a template for other provinces to provide better and more compassionate two spirit and trans healthcare.

As Women's Advocate for UNIFOR local 4504, Nicki ensures that victims of workplace harassment or workers experiencing domestic or intimate partner violence within the union have access to resources.

Nicki is also growing the next generation of community minded volunteers. They are described as a huge cheerleader for those wanting to learn. Nicki embodies the values of peacemaker within our community.

