



## YMCA of Greater Vancouver YMCA Camp Elphinstone

### Acknowledgement of Risk YMCA Camp Elphinstone

The well-being of all participants and staff at YMCA Camp Elphinstone is our top priority. The YMCA takes reasonable precautions to ensure that programs and activities at YMCA Camp Elphinstone are conducted by qualified staff in a responsible manner.

Choosing to come to camp has many benefits, and it also has particular risks. Participation in camp activities entails known and unanticipated risks that could result in physical or emotional injury to participants and/or property. Participants/families need to know the risks associated with a camp and outdoor education experience at YMCA Camp Elphinstone, and to accept that they are taking risks.

We are proud of our record in caring for children, youth and families, and we are proud of our ongoing work focused on this goal. If you have any questions or comments we would be pleased to hear from you.

#### Safety & Risk Management

YMCA Camp Elphinstone accepts that there are inherent risks associated with all of our programs and we take specific actions to reduce or control those risks. We manage risks so that they will be encountered at a level that is tolerable. Riding a bicycle, for example, has associated risks – but, by wearing a helmet and respecting transportation laws, most people decide that the risk is tolerable. Therefore, rather than guaranteeing safety, we use a risk management approach to our programs and services.

There can be no doubt that some of the risks of camping are intrinsic to the enjoyment and growth experienced at camp. For instance, there is some emotional risk involved when meeting new friends, and there is physical risk involved in a hiking trip. At YMCA Camp Elphinstone, we manage these risks with planning, training and equipment.

We manage the emotional risks of meeting new friends by training with child and youth care practices, and we adopt fun, inclusive programs where young people can grow together with guidance. We manage the risks of mountain hiking by deciding upon goals, by reviewing a destination, by supporting trained staff, by carrying appropriate equipment, and by operating our hiking program within the Out Trip standards of the BC Camping Association.

#### Risks Encountered in YMCA Camp Elphinstone Programs

Any of the activities at YMCA Camp Elphinstone involve certain emotional and physical risk. Activities at or organized by YMCA Camp Elphinstone shall include recreational or educational activities, including, but not limited to: wall climbing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, participation in activities in or near water (including swimming and boating), archery, use of the high- and low- rope courses, outdoor cooking and camping, hiking, participation in team-initiative tasks, and participation in sports or games at or organized by YMCA Camp Elphinstone.

Camps comply with all relevant provincial and federal government legislation pertaining to health, food service, water quality, transportation, boat safety, building codes, fire codes, labour laws and human rights. YMCA Camp Elphinstone is also accredited with the BC Camping Association. Accredited camps must also meet the additional standards set by their provincial camping association.