



December 12, 2017

Dear Camp Hochelaga Community,

I am writing to express my gratitude to the many parents and family members in our Camp Hochelaga community for providing us with such helpful feedback through our 2017 Family Survey. The insight our community provides us plays an integral role in our planning for positive, meaningful, and fun-filled summers to come. Your many voices of feedback directly support our ability to grow the aspects of camp that our campers love best and make positive adjustments where needed and desired. If you submitted an anonymous survey, please know that your voice was heard.

The 98-year-old traditions, the long summer days of embarking on adventures and trying new things, and the opportunities to build friendships that live on long after the end of each camp session will remain at the core of Camp Hochelaga. We have also recognized some areas for growth and are excited to step into action with new programs and adjustments next summer.

Our campers and their families have helped us realize that we can improve our process of activity signup on the first day of camp and throughout the session. Moving forward, we are implementing a new system for Exploratory sign-up. Each day, every camper will have the opportunity to choose her exploratory activities through a quick, fun and socially safe process. Additionally, we have made note of our most popular programs – sailing, paddleboarding, archery, larping and outdoor cooking to name a few – and strive to ensure that we grow our resources and offer enough spaces in these areas to give all interested campers the opportunity to participate.

Camp Hochelaga's waterfront staff hold safety and the development of proficient swimming skills as their top priority. Swimming support will continue to be offered throughout each camp session with greater opportunities for campers to retake swim tests after working with a staff member to develop new skills. We strive to support all of our campers in experiencing empowerment by meeting their goals and growing their skills in a positive and safe environment.

Through a partnership with Health Roots Collaborative, we are building connections with local farmers so that we can bring food grown right in the islands into camp's lodge during every meal. From produce to dairy, we will be able to trace the origin of our fresh foods right into our own community. In addition to buying locally, we are working with our kitchen team to ensure that no camper leaves a meal hungry.

Our mid-summer 2-week session, RC4, will now include a 1-night camping trip at a local campground! From pitching tents to cooking dinner over the fire to finishing a beautiful hike, rustic camping facilitates

teamwork, individual and group growth, unforgettable memories of shared adventures, and deeper connections to nature.

When I think about all that is to come during summer 2018 on the shores of Lake Champlain I am filled with anticipation and excitement. I hope that you share this feeling with me! Camp Hochelaga is a place of true magic and empowerment for so many of our campers and staff members.

If you did not have a chance to complete the Family Survey this fall but would like to offer your feedback, please don't hesitate to contact us by email or phone at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hannah Bogard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hannah" and last name "Bogard" clearly distinguishable.

Hannah Bogard, Camp Director

YWCA Vermont Camp Hochelaga

YWCA IS ON A MISSION