



News Release

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TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECT FOR IMMIGRANTS OPENED

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA – Immigrants in Winnipeg have more access to affordable, temporary accommodations with the official opening today of Centre House, a new 36-bed transitional housing residence in the International Centre, at 406 Edmonton Street. The project is sponsored by the Citizenship Council of Manitoba Inc.

Centre House, located on the third floor of the International Centre, offers newly-arrived families and individuals who are homeless a safe, comfortable and affordable place to stay while they establish themselves in Winnipeg. The Citizenship Council of Manitoba provides innovative and responsive client-centered services and programs to immigrants in Winnipeg through a coordinated network of International Centre staff and volunteers. Its strength stems from its ability to provide a holistic and comprehensive range of services such as settlement and integration support, citizenship preparation, language bank and volunteer support, employment, adult education, outreach, nutrition and temporary housing.

The Honourable Christine Melnick, Manitoba Minister of Family Services and Housing; the Honourable Nancy Allan, Manitoba Minister of Labour and Immigration and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism; His Worship Mayor Glen Murray, City of Winnipeg; George Skinner, Regional Director General, Human Resources and Skills Development, on behalf of the Honourable Claudette Bradshaw, Minister of Labour and Minister responsible for Homelessness; and Sudhir Sandhu, President of the Board of Directors of the Citizenship Council of Manitoba Inc., participated in today's opening ceremonies.

“Every level of government has recognized the role of immigration for the future well-being of Winnipeg and Manitoba,” said Sudhir Sandhu. “It is through their commitment that a volunteer agency like the Citizenship Council has been able to build an effective service continuum that facilitates the transition from immigrant to citizen. Centre House will be yet another step forward in making Winnipeg a destination of choice for perspective immigrants from around the world.”

“Securing adequate, affordable shelter is a major challenge for immigrants who want to begin a new life in Canada and have limited resources,” said Minister Bradshaw. “Centre House will provide newcomers with suitable, temporary accommodations at a reasonable price until they can look for housing that better meets their needs.”

“This funding, through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, is key to ensuring immigrants to Manitoba have a safe and secure place to live when they arrive,” said Minister Melnick. “This is also a way we can work with the community to support children, families and individuals to achieve their fullest potential.”

“The City recognizes the vital role of immigration in the growth and development of our community,” said Mayor Murray. “That’s why just over a year ago, the City set aside \$250,000 in municipal funds to aid refugees who are lacking private sponsorship support. This housing project will assist immigrants adjust as they begin to make a new life in our city and our country.”

The Citizenship Council of Manitoba Inc. is a registered, non-profit, charitable organization that was established in 1969 by a group of dedicated community members with a common goal of welcoming and supporting immigrants’ integration into Canadian society by offering them a meeting place with a difference. The Council’s vision is to create opportunities for immigrants to connect, integrate and fully participate in Canadian society.

Centre House was made possible with funding from the governments of Canada and Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI). The WHHI funding includes \$858,194 from the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative of the Government of Canada’s National Homelessness Initiative.

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