

# Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## *The Jerry Forbes Centre for Community Spirit* **Acquires a New Home for Edmonton Non-Profits**

**EDMONTON, Alberta (February 26, 2016)** – The Jerry Forbes Centre for Community Spirit is pleased to announce the purchase of an existing office and warehouse location in North East Edmonton at 12122 – 68 Street. The Centre has a lease agreement with the current tenant and once the lease is complete, substantial renovations will be completed to create a new home for several Edmonton non-profits.

**As the future home for over 20 vital non-profit organizations in need**, the Jerry Forbes Centre will facilitate collaborative business practices enabling non-profits to share resources and talents for enhanced program delivery and promote community spirit and volunteerism. Tenants will be selected based on criteria that is available at [jerryforbescentre.ca](http://jerryforbescentre.ca). The multi-tenant Centre will provide healthy, affordable and vibrant work spaces where charitable organizations can share resources and talents to enhance program delivery to Edmonton.

“The Family is *deeply* honored to have Dad's name aligned with such an important centre. Who knew that an idea started in the basement of a radio station in the mid-1950s would grow to be such a huge part of the social fabric of Edmonton - one that will touch thousands in so many important areas,” said Marty Forbes, son of the late Jerry Forbes. Marty, a Member of the Jerry Forbes Centre Foundation, is excited that the Centre will soon house several critical agencies in Edmonton and build on the legacy of his father.

### **About**

**Jerry Forbes Centre Foundation** was founded by CHED Santas Anonymous (60 years of service to Edmonton) and Christmas Bureau of Edmonton (75 years) who recognized a need for stable, affordable, charity facilities. With legacies of caring for community, these agencies wanted to do something innovative by sharing their space and expertise year-round. Themed on volunteerism, the Jerry Forbes Centre for Community Spirit will be a community hub offering charities the chance to develop skills and knowledge collectively, share space and services, infrastructure and operating costs.

The Jerry Forbes Centre Foundation (JFCF) charity was incorporated in January 11, 2012 under the Societies Act of Alberta and registered with CRA January 3, 2013.

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# FAQs

## **What is the Jerry Forbes Centre?**

The Jerry Forbes Centre is a critically needed, innovative co-working office and warehouse space that is uniquely themed on volunteerism. The Centre will provide Edmonton non-profit organizations with a vibrant work environment to foster communication with other organizations through resource sharing in a sustainable, multi-tenant space promoting synergy, innovation and community spirit. There is currently nothing like it in the greater Edmonton area for social and human service organizations.

The office is designed primarily for administration of charities and training of staff and volunteers for outreach into the community.

## **What makes the Jerry Forbes Centre unique from other shared space options for Edmonton non-profit organizations?**

The Centre will provide its Tenant Partners and the broader community with the both the benefits of shared and vibrant work spaces and the opportunity for collaborative administration where charitable organizations will share resources and talents to create efficiencies.

## **What is the benefit of providing shared administration?**

The benefit to the Tenant Partners of the Jerry Forbes Centre will be the relief of financial and logistic pressures on non-profits by lifting property management issues, providing long term, affordable lease rates below commercial market rates and providing services and amenities they would not otherwise have access to such as shared reception, meeting space and access to volunteer collaboration as well as the back-office infrastructure.

## **How do these Shared Services create Social Innovation and Efficiency?**

The Centre creates the opportunity for shared staff and volunteers. Using this job sharing model provides continuity in employment and alleviates financial pressure on individual organizations. It also creates the opportunity for people to make new connections and collaborate to create solutions.

Also, managing the Centre in an integrated way will provide its non-profit Tenant Partners with solid, reliable infrastructure (such as phones and internet) and a professionally managed facility, further enabling the long-term sustainability of these organizations. The Centre will also host integrated training programs such as financial management, charity compliance and volunteer and staff training.

## **What is the key issue Edmonton non-profit organizations say the Jerry Forbes Centre solves for them?**

Edmonton non-profits have identified access to affordable, long-term, predictable and quality administration spaces as one of the biggest issues they face today. Joining the Jerry Forbes Centre community will ensure these important organizations have sustainable futures and continue to contribute to those in need of their services. Lease rates are calculated as only cost of operations for the Centre.

## **How does the Jerry Forbes Centre choose Tenant Partners?**

Tenancy in the Centre is criteria-based to ensure the vision and values of the Foundation are upheld. Full details on the criteria and how to apply are available online at [JerryForbesCentre.ca](http://JerryForbesCentre.ca)