

Inn from the Cold Receives Extension on Emergency Family Shelter Deal

Calgary – The Calgary Drop In & Rehab Centre has granted Inn from the Cold a 30-day extension to purchase Centre 110, located at 110 – 11 Ave SE, for Calgary's first Emergency Family Shelter. The Inn has until May 31, 2008 to meet the financial conditions outlined in the deal, with the revised closing date moved to June 30, 2008.

"While we are completely confident that we will be the owners of this wonderful facility at the end of June, the additional time will allow Inn from the Cold to make one final push and maximize the fundraising effort," says incoming Inn from the Cold President Steve Cloutier. The Inn has raised \$4 million to date.

Cloutier adds that the community support for the Shelter to date has been "tremendous" with many organizations and individuals donating to the Inn's capital campaign. He also acknowledges that the Drop-In Centre's support for the Inn's vision for a designated family shelter has been "extraordinary".

"There are many in our community who truly see and believe in the value of the Emergency Family Shelter. It will change lives," says Cloutier. "Through our network of almost 4000 volunteers, Inn from the Cold has tirelessly provided compassionate care and safe emergency shelter for 11 years. However, we have all seen the toll that the nomadic lifestyle of moving from place to place every night takes on families, especially the children. The Shelter offers the benefit and stability of one address, as families begin to prepare for appropriate housing."

"The Drop-In Centre supports the Inn's goal of bringing this much-needed resource to our city. An Emergency Family Shelter will change the Calgary community in a positive, meaningful way," says Dermot Baldwin, Executive Director, Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre. "It is a crucial first step for families as they begin to rebuild their lives."

It is anticipated that the Shelter will accommodate up to 100 family members on a nightly basis. Volunteers will come to the building to prepare meals and offer hospitality. Family members will stay together in semi-private rooms. Through the Inn's network with partner agencies, family members will access the programs and services required to begin to deal with the issues contributing to their homelessness and to prepare for housing. It is expected that families will begin moving in over the summer, with the Shelter fully operational by early fall.

"The location is ideal. Our administration offices are already on-site and there are numerous residential developments slated for this area. Families will truly be part of a community," adds Cloutier.

Inn from the Cold invites the Calgary community to help give homeless families hope for the future by donating to its "Building Family" capital campaign. Contact the Inn office at 263-8384 or visit www.innfromthecold.org for more information. There are also several third-party community fundraisers taking place in May, including one at Southcentre Mall.

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About Inn from the Cold

Inn from the Cold is the only place where Calgary's homeless families can go and stay together. Through its network of over 104 churches, synagogues and organizations, as well as 4000 volunteers, the Inn provides temporary emergency shelter to homeless families and others in need. It also offers a number of different programs and services to help families rebuild their lives. For more information, visit www.innfromthecold.org.

About the Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre

For over 45 years, the Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre has delivered services and shelter to people experiencing homelessness in Calgary. Open 365 days a year, twenty-four hours a day, the Drop-In sleeps 1100 men and women per night and serves approximately 3500 meals a day. In 2007, over 10,000 individuals used the Drop-In's services and programs. You can learn more about the Calgary Drop-In & Rehab Centre by visiting www.calgarydropin.com

