



**For Immediate Release**

**1,500 community members in need will access close to 70 services in one day at one location**

**Edmonton, April 12, 2015-** The 14<sup>th</sup> Homeless Connect Edmonton takes place on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Shaw Conference Centre, providing 1,500 community members in need with access to nearly 70 services in one safe and accessible location. The event, the largest of its kind in Canada, supports Edmonton's work to end homelessness.

Service providers, supported by 300 community volunteers, work to provide both essential and dignity enhancing services to those in need two times a year, with the fall event being of significant importance as winter approaches. Services include dental care, clothing, housing and employment information, laundry services, haircuts, pre-natal services, birth control, counselling, a hot meal, and more.

Homeward Trust coordinates Homeless Connect through collaboration with Edmonton Economic Development, Shaw Conference Centre, and the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region. The event is led by a community-based steering committee and relies on donations and sponsorship from more than 25 organizations.

"Homeless Connect is about community coming together, committing to changing how we think about homelessness and those experiencing it, and sharing the goal of ending it all together" said Susan McGee, Chief Executive Officer of Homeward Trust Edmonton. "By providing services on one day, and in one location, guests can meet several needs all at once."

As a founding partner of Homeless Connect, hosting the two events each year since 2008 makes sense for the Shaw Conference Centre.

"Convention centres are meant to benefit the social, educational and economic environments of their communities," explains Cliff Higuchi, Vice President and General Manager of the Shaw Conference Centre. "As a community hub the Shaw Conference Centre provides service to the public, in this case by leveraging our space and event expertise to help Edmontonians who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless."

Learn more about Homeless Connect Edmonton at [www.homelessconnectyeg.com](http://www.homelessconnectyeg.com).

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*Homeless Connect Edmonton is organized by volunteer committees that provide direction and support for the event. Homeward trust Edmonton, a not-for-profit organization providing leadership and resources towards ending homelessness, coordinates the overall work plan and ensures the event aligns with related Edmonton initiatives.*