



For Immediate Release

1,700 community members in need will access close to 70 services in one day at one location

Edmonton, October 25, 2015- The 15th Homeless Connect Edmonton takes place on Sunday, October 25th at the Shaw Conference Centre, providing 1,700 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 over 300 community volunteers, work to provide both essential and dignity enhancing services to those in need twice 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, immunizations, a hot meal, and more.

"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. "With the Shaw Conference Centre offering the space and the event expertise, and by our volunteer service providers offering services on one day, and in one location, guests can meet several needs all at once."

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

"This event is offering assistance that might otherwise be out of reach," explains Kent McLeod, Co-Chair of the Homeless Connect Steering Committee. "It's absolutely necessary to come together as a community and share the commitment to help fellow Edmontonians who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless."

Learn more about Homeless Connect Edmonton at 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.