



John Howard Bedford House



Location:

Calgary, Alberta

Residence Information:

Address: 615 13 Ave SE
Calgary, AB T2G 1C4
Phone: (403) 232-6388
Fax: (403) 233-0855

Residents Accepted:

Federal offenders who are on Conditional Release from Correctional Services Canada and/or a Provincial offender serving a temporary absence, bail release or a term of probation. Each case is considered individually.

Exclusions:

Candidates for admission should have demonstrated positive motivation and some insight into their criminogenic factors, and a willingness to address those factors. An ongoing commitment in preparing themselves for full reintegration and the avoidance of factors that will contribute to relapse is expected. Those individuals who have limited needs, or who are unable or unwilling to subscribe to these commitments are ordinarily not well suited for Bedford House.

Short Description:

A Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF) where services are provided to Correctional Services Canada (21 beds) and the Solicitor General of Alberta (1 bed). A treatment facility geared towards those in conflict with the law, who have recognized treatment issues.

Contact Information:

Coordinator: Heather Quirico
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Acceptance Procedure:

Offenders are required to talk to the institutional parole officer to see if the program best suits his/her needs with regard to community release plans. For federal offenders, the institutional parole officer must initiate a community strategy to the Calgary District Parole Office in order for the applicant to be reviewed for residency at the Offender Management Review Board. For provincial offenders, an application form must be filled out and submitted by the applicant and the caseworker. A staff member(s) of Bedford House conducts a review of the applicant's file. Residency will be based primarily on bed space availability.

Description:

Bedford House is a specialized community based residential facility geared towards meeting the social and clinical needs of offenders with issues requiring further programming and/or treatment. Our primary mandate and obligation is to ensure the safety, security, and well being of the community at-large. As part of the re-integration process, our residents are given support within a structured release plan that requires constant supervision. Autonomy, privilege and participation in authorized community activities and programming are only extended in proportion to the individual's ability and willingness to accept personal responsibility and accountability.

Programs:

- Monthly mandatory house meetings
- Weekly (open) in house AA meetings
- Life Transition Program - intended for individuals who have the potential to make a *genuine commitment* to engage in an ongoing process of avoiding relapse
- Recreational opportunities are available to the residents in the form of group outings, hiking, pass to the YMCA or the Talisman Centre, sports events, music and theatre.
- Each resident is assigned a caseworker to assist him/her in identifying goals and directions for the future as well as to encourage and assist with daily matters.

History:

Bedford House opened its doors to both men and women in conflict with the law in December 1985 and has continued to act as a general stepping-stone from the institution back into the general community since.

Institutions the Residence Visits:

- Drumheller Institution
- Bowden Institution
- Edmonton Institution
- Pe Sakastew
- Calgary Correctional Centre
- Calgary Remand Centre

Related Community Programs:

- Calgary John Howard programs for employment training, skills and certification (LEEP Program); educational upgrading, Journey to Employability - based on the Alternatives to Violence Program
- AA, GA and NA meetings in the community
- AADAC
- Sheriff King, Attendance Centre
- Bedford House utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach to the casework process through ongoing consultation with community psychologists, consulting psychiatrist, the psychiatric nurse, and CSC and community group facilitators
- Access to the Inter-Faith food bank
- Close and easy access to libraries and recreational facilities for sport and computer/reading skills training