

# Bedford House & John Howard Office Relocation

February 7, 2012

Welcome!

The Calgary John Howard Society and its consultants thank you for attending our Development Permit Preview.

Tonight we are pleased to share with you the drawings that we have prepared for our proposed facility at 4444 Builders Road SE as well as some background information about the Development Permit process we are about to embark on with the City of Calgary. We look forward to answering any questions you may have and listening to your feedback on the proposed drawings for the building.

We understand that many of you may just be learning about our proposed development now. Please review this package of information which outlines a bit of the history about the Calgary John Howard Society's journey to relocate Bedford House – a Community Residential Facility for male offenders – to its new home at 4444 Builder's Road SE in the industrial area of Manchester. It also provides some background about Community Residential Facilities and life inside a Halfway House.

Thank you for your interest in our development. We look forward to working with you in our mutual goal to make Calgary as safe a community it can be, in which to live, work and play.

Sincerely,

**Calgary John Howard Society & its Bedford House Relocation Team**

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

We are looking forward to being a Good Neighbour of yours and welcome your suggestions or comments you may have into the Development Permit.

For more information about Calgary John Howard please visit [www.calgaryjohnhoward.org](http://www.calgaryjohnhoward.org) or contact Gordon Sand at [gord.sand@calgaryjohnhoward.org](mailto:gord.sand@calgaryjohnhoward.org).



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## 4444 Builders Road SE

The Calgary John Howard Society (CJHS) is planning to relocate its Community Residential Facility (CRF) -- otherwise known as the halfway house called "Bedford House" -- as well as its offices and educational classrooms, to the address of 4444 Builders Road SE. The CJHS has purchased the property at this location and was successful in its land use re-designation proposal to the City of Calgary in July 2010 when CJHS requested to change the land use designation for 4444 Builders Road SE from that of Industrial General Land Use District to Direct Control Industrial General Land Use which allows Special Care Facilities.



## Who is the CJHS?

The Calgary John Howard Society (CJHS) is a community-based charitable organization dedicated to reducing the incidence of crime and increasing community safety through preventative and restorative justice practices. To accomplish these ends, CJHS provides:

- Direct services to individuals at risk
- Advocacy for effective responses to crime and the individuals involved
- Education for youth and adults in the community

Bedford House is one of many programs the Calgary John Howard Society offers to the community as the Society works at many levels to help prevent crime, integrate former offenders into community life, and to build safer communities. The Society's primary mandate and obligation is to ensure the safety, security and well-being of the community.

## What is a Halfway House?

The CJHS has been providing services to the community of Calgary for over 60 years. The organization builds programs and services in response to the needs of the community. One important way CJHS does this is through facilitating the safe transition of offenders into the community through CRF's, or Halfway Houses. Community Residential Facilities are an integral part of Correctional Services Canada's program to safely and successfully reintegrate offenders into the community. Through CRFs, individuals are supervised and given the opportunity to develop the tools they need to become functioning members of society after a time in prison. This step "halfway" between prison and the community has been shown to be beneficial because most offenders are more likely to become law-abiding citizens if they participate in a program of gradual, supervised release. This step in the corrections process not only helps the offender, but it helps keep the community safer.



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## The FACILITY

The building at 4444 Builders Road SE will consist of two components: a residential component and a main office and program centre.

### The Residential Component

The residential component will house 32 men who have been released from prison and are referred to CJHS for residency so they can gradually transition back into the community. All referrals are screened for suitability and risk management before being accepted. The residential component of the facility will have nine full-time staff members and 10 to 15 relief staff, all dedicated to the residence portion of the facility. There will always be a minimum of two staff members on-duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week. During the weekdays there will be four to five staff at the facility. Together with Correctional Services Canada, CJHS provides supervision, monitoring and support to the individuals residing in the residential facility. Individual curfews are in place and residents must report their whereabouts when away from the facility. Calgary Police Service works with CJHS to monitor the location and behaviour of our residents in the community.

### The Main Office and Program Centre

The main office and program centre will house CJHS' administrative services and program delivery such as basic job preparation, literacy tutoring, youth drug awareness, victim offender reconciliation and outreach services for youth and criminal justice education in the public and separate school systems. The main office will house 30 to 35 staff members. Approximately 2000 individuals will come to the main office over the course of a year.

## RELOCATION TIMELINE (to date)

<b>October 2005</b>	City of Calgary expropriates Bedford House due to Stampede Park expansion
<b>2006</b>	Sunalta Site Application was approved by the City of Calgary, however SDAB rules against City approval
<b>January 2010</b>	CJHS identifies 4444 Builders Road SE as a potential site
<b>March 2010</b>	An application was made to the City of Calgary for a Land Use Redesignation
<b>July 2010</b>	Land Use Redesignation was approved by City Council
<b>August 2011</b>	City of Calgary and the CJHS initiates a Good Neighbour Agreement
<b>Fall 2011</b>	CJHS starts designing the facility
<b>December 2011</b>	Good Neighbour Agreement is drafted and is almost complete
<b>February 2012</b>	Development Permit Preview to the General Public



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## DEVELOPMENT PERMIT TIMELINE:

### Estimated Dates

February 2012	Submit Development Permit (DP) Application to the City of Calgary
March 2012	City circulates DP to internal/external stakeholders
April 2012	City provides comments to CJHS team
May 2012	CJHS responds to comments/revises plans (if needed)
June 2012	City decision
July 2012	City advertises decision
August 2012	City releases the DP application

Next steps: After the DP process has been completed, the CJHS team will begin the Building Permit process.

### UNDERSTANDING LIFE INSIDE BEDFORD HOUSE

For the residents of Bedford House, Bedford House offers a safe and non-judgemental place to learn how to live in the community again. For the majority of the residents, they have been confined to a prison or detention centre for many, many years. Many of them have lost their contacts in the community and need help developing supports and resources they can rely on when leaving Bedford House.

When a new resident arrives at Bedford they may be restricted to the House 24 hours a day, 7 days a week until staff set a regular curfew suitable for their situation. Some residents are accompanied by staff when they leave the house until they have set activities or employment. As they gain confidence and demonstrate that they accept the restrictions they have to live by, they are allowed to leave the house but must phone in from a landline when they reach their destination. They must tell staff where they are going, when they will be back, and call in if they are to be gone longer than three hours. If they are not back within 10 minutes of the time they said they would be, a Correctional Services of Canada duty officer is advised and warrants may be issued for their arrest.

As residents gain privileges and demonstrate they are doing well, they earn more freedoms. These daily freedoms still require they be physically in the house for a minimum of seven hours a day. The regular house curfew is 6 pm unless they have employment or regular approved activities. Other activities that keep our residents busy include taking classes on how to write a resume, classes on upgrading their employability skills, and regular visits with psychiatrists and social workers to help them as they work towards becoming fully functioning members of society.

Of paramount concern to the Calgary John Howard Society is the ultimate safety of the community. Bedford House only accepts residents who exhibit a genuine desire to succeed in the program and become a law-abiding citizen. All residents must demonstrate positive motivation and a willingness to address their personal issues along the road to becoming healthy, fully functioning members of society. Through the valuable services offered at Bedford House, Calgary John Howard Society helps them get there.

## Good Neighbour Agreement

At the July Public Hearing City Council made the following recommendation:

“Direct the Administration to encourage a “Good Neighbour” agreement between the applicant and the surrounding communities, Windsor Park, Elboya, Parkhill/Stanley Park and Manchester, at the Development Permit stage which should include, but not be limited to, the Calgary John Howard Society letter dated 2010 July 15, and other considerations presented during the Public Hearing on this item.”

In August 2011, together with the City of Calgary, CJHS initiated a Good Neighbour Agreement (GNA) process with area businesses and community members. An independent consultant was retained by the City (Diane MacDonald & Associates Inc.) to spearhead this process.

This committee met regularly for four months and have now drafted an agreement that is in the process of being signed by area businesses, neighbouring community associations and members as well as ourselves. This agreement, or GNA, is an additional commitment to keep channels of communication open and to listen to and respond to any concerns as they arise – between both CJHS and its neighbours - about our facility and operations at 4444 Builders Road SE.



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