



Backgrounder

Described as “the first of its kind in Canada” among faith communities, the Centre for the City is an initiative of Centre Street Church, partnering with eight other community organizations in Calgary and part of a national network (Kentro Christian Network) focused on transforming cities to fight poverty across Canada.

THE CENTRE FOR THE CITY – NEW FACILITY

With the completion of our new facility, we now have 11,077 square feet for the Centre for the City, and access to many additional purpose-built spaces for program needs like skills training, community building and a play structure (still under construction) for children of families being served. Since we’ve moved into our new facility, we’ve increased the number of people we serve by more than double and this will only grow as the need grows in Calgary.

HISTORY TIMELINE

- **2013 – New Canadian Friendship Centre begins:** We launched our NCFC to walk alongside new Canadians and refugees and support them with training, classes and a place to belong.
- **2016 – Compassionate Ministry begins:** We partnered with the Calgary Food Bank and began our Compassionate Ministries which includes clothing and food support, job skills training, and the Well Café where people in need experience community, a safe place to belong and opportunities for deeper life change.
- **2020 – Scale up prepared meals:** We increased the scale of our food distribution in response to the pandemic by partnering with over 30 organizations to get pre-prepared meals into the hands of seniors, at risk youth, single moms, families in crisis and low income Calgarians.

New facility construction launch: We also took another significant step towards increasing our capacity to help by beginning construction of a new facility so we could meet the expected growth of demand for help in the coming years.

- **2022:** After serving our 100,000th meal since the beginning of the pandemic, we returned to in-person gatherings, serving people out of our Well Café.
- **2023:** After celebrating 10 years of service to new Canadians, we began to bring all our outreach ministries (Compassionate Ministries and New Canadian Friendship Centre) under the Centre for the City banner.

SINCE WE EXPANDED:

1333

Monthly average of visits from people coming to the Well Café for food and a place to belong.

544

Monthly average people coming for clothing support

610

Boxed lunches distributed on average each month

300

Food hampers distributed on average each month.

336

Average visits from new Canadians attending around 45-60 classes and courses offered each month.



- **2024 – Centre for the City opens:** We began a phased move-in process and celebrated our grand opening Sept 28 2024.

Centre Street Church is one church in many locations. Each weekend, over 8900 people gather in five locations and online across Calgary and Airdrie to worship and learn about Jesus.

Centre for the City - partners and friends

1. Calgary Food Bank
2. HerVictory
3. Teen Challenge
4. Common Ground Foundation
5. Salvation Army
6. The Mustard Seed
7. Mainsprings
8. Freedom 8848
9. Hope Mission

The building campaign

The Centre for the City was part of a larger expansion project of CSC's Central Campus, which cost a total of \$30.8 million, including 11,077 square feet of purpose-built space for the Centre.

Due to the generosity of our congregation, we have never needed to service debt on our construction projects, and we only have \$1.7 million left to raise to complete payment of the construction. \$23.8 million alone was raised by our congregation over the course of six years to pay for a variety of missional construction projects across our city and across the world. Anyone can give to the BUILD campaign by visiting <https://cchurch.ca/giving> and designating your gift to BUILD more room for God.