



Manulife Investment Management Becomes First Canadian Real Estate Landlord to Achieve GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation

MONTREAL, QC – (February 4, 2021) Manulife Investment Management (“Manulife”) has demonstrated its commitment to employee and customer health and safety by achieving [GBAC STAR™ Facility Accreditation](#) from the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), [a Division of ISSA](#), the worldwide cleaning industry association. Manulife is the first Canadian real estate landlord to achieve the coveted accreditation. Seven of its facilities in Montreal, Quebec, have been accredited.

GBAC STAR is an industry accreditation focused on ensuring a clean, safe, and healthy environment in public and commercial facilities of all sizes. The program outlines best practices, protocols, and procedures to control risk factors associated with infectious disease, including SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for COVID-19. GBAC STAR accreditation means that venues’ cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention programs implement best practices to prepare for, respond to, and recover from outbreaks and pandemics like COVID-19.

The seven Manulife properties in Montreal to have achieved accreditation are:

- Centre Manuvie – 2000 Mansfield St.
- 1001 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West
- 2000 Peel St.
- 420 Notre-Dame St. West
- 465 McGill St.
- 485 McGill St.
- 715 Square Victoria St.

“Now more than ever, we’re focused on providing safer and healthier spaces for our tenants, employees and visitors. We’ve aligned ourselves with global health authorities and local government regulations to develop our return to office program,” said Stephen Nicoletti, Managing Director, Real Estate Asset Management, Eastern Canada at Manulife Investment Management. “Our teams are committed to establishing and implementing comprehensive practices to ensure the health and safety at our buildings.” More information about Manulife’s COVID-19 return-to-office program can be found at www.manulifeim.com/realestate/covid19 .

To achieve GBAC STAR accreditation, facilities must follow specific performance and guidance criteria to show compliance with the program’s 20 elements, which range from standard operating procedures and risk assessment to personal protective equipment (PPE) and emergency preparedness and response measures. The program is ideal for facilities of all sizes including, but not limited to offices, restaurants, hotels, airports, stadiums, and other public venues.



“GBAC STAR is the gold standard of safe facilities, providing third-party validation that ensures facilities implement strict protocols for biorisk situations,” said GBAC Executive Director Patricia Olinger. “Accreditation empowers facility owners and managers to assure workers, customers, and key stakeholders that they have proven systems in place to deliver clean and healthy environments that are safe for business.”

Apply for GBAC STAR facility accreditation today at gbac.org/star. See which facilities are accredited or are working towards accreditation via the [GBAC STAR Facility Directory](#).

About Manulife Investment Management, Private Markets

Manulife Investment Management's comprehensive private markets capabilities include real estate, private equity and credit, infrastructure, timber and agriculture. Through its real estate group, Manulife Investment Management develops and manages commercial real estate for thousands of customers around the globe. As of September 30, 2020, the real estate portfolio totals over 63 million square feet of office, industrial, and retail space and over 6,000 multifamily units strategically located in markets across Canada, the U.S., and Asia. The group leverages its global platform and local expertise to provide market-leading solutions for its tenants and deliver results for its partners. Additional information about the Real Estate group can be found at www.manulifeim.com/realestate.

About GBAC, a Division of ISSA

Composed of international leaders in the field of microbial-pathogenic threat analysis, mitigation, response, and recovery, the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC), a Division of ISSA, provides training, guidance, accreditation, certification, crisis management assistance, and leadership to government, commercial and private entities looking to mitigate, quickly address, and/or recover from biological threats and real-time crises. The organization's services include biorisk management program assessment and training, Forensic Restoration® response and remediation, the GBAC STAR facility accreditation program, training and certification of individuals, and consulting for building owners and facility managers. For more information, visit www.gbac.org.

About ISSA

With more than 9,300 members – including distributors, manufacturers, manufacturer representatives, wholesalers, building service contractors, in-house service providers, residential cleaners, and associated service members – ISSA is the world's leading trade association for the cleaning industry. The association is committed to changing the way the world views cleaning by providing its members with the business tools they need to promote cleaning as an investment in human health, the environment, and an improved bottom line. Headquartered in Northbrook, Ill., USA, the association has regional offices in Mainz, Germany; Whitby, Canada; Parramatta, Australia; Seoul, South Korea; and Shanghai, China. For more information about ISSA, visit www.issa.com or call (800) 225-4772 (North America) or (847) 982-0800. For information on ISSA's Canadian division, ISSA Canada, visit <http://www.issa-canada.com> or call (866) 864-8273 or (905) 665-8001.

About MediaEdge Communications

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for associations offering exceptional no-cost member benefits through a number of innovative products and services. Find out more by visiting www.mediaedge.ca.

MediaEdge is a proud reseller of the GBAC STAR and GBAC fundamentals online course. Please see the program details and links below and remember to use the promo codes when registering as they provide discounts.

1. Commercial facility owners looking for GBAC STAR accreditation can follow the link [here](#) and use the promo code **"MediaEdgeGS"**
2. ISSA has also released a new GBAC fundamentals online course specifically designed for cleaning workers on the frontlines of the coronavirus fight. Please click [here](#) to register and receive a discount off normal prices.

For additional program details and information, please email chuckn@mediaedge.ca or contact him at (416) 803-4653.