



## Yorkdale Mall Becomes First Canadian Retail Centre to Achieve GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation



**Toronto, ON – (July 16, 2021)** Toronto’s Yorkdale Shopping Centre has demonstrated its commitment to employee and customer health and safety by becoming the first retail centre in Canada to achieve the [GBAC Star Facility Accreditation](#) from the Global Biorisk Advisory Council® (GBAC), a Division of ISSA, [the worldwide cleaning industry association](#).

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.

Yorkdale Shopping Centre’s GBAC STAR accreditation reflects a variety of health and safety measures it has put in place to keep employees and shoppers safe during this time. Some examples include:

- Frequent cleaning in high-touch and high-traffic areas using best practices and products identified by health organizations
- Signage to guide customer traffic flow, physical distancing throughout the property
- Hand sanitizer and handwashing stations available throughout the centre
- Curbside pickup with participating retailers.

“The health and safety of our employees and customers is our top priority,” says Kimberly Barnard, General Manager of Yorkdale Shopping Centre. “Achieving GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation demonstrates our commitment to ensuring we have high quality systems in place to help protect our community to the best of our ability.”

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.

### [Yorkdale Shopping Centre](#)

Yorkdale Shopping Centre is Canada’s leading shopping destination, named the country’s most successful shopping centre for the third year in a row by the Retail Council of Canada. With a diverse mix of more than 270 shops and services, shoppers from throughout the Greater Toronto Area and around the world look to Yorkdale for an exceptional selection of the world’s best fashion, technology and



luxury brands. Recent expansions now bring Yorkdale to nearly 2 million square feet and the centre continues to serve as a platform for new and innovative brands. Yorkdale is dedicated to sustainability with the GTA's largest rooftop solar panel installation and rooftop greenery that spans 150,000 square feet. Yorkdale is co-owned by Oxford Properties and Alberta Investment Management Corporation (AIMCo) and managed by Oxford Properties Group. Yorkdale is located at 3401 Dufferin Street, off Allen Road, near the 401. For more information, visit [www.yorkdale.com](http://www.yorkdale.com) to speak to live online concierges or access social channels @yorkdalestyle.

#### **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](http://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](http://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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**MediaEdge is a proud reseller of the GBAC STAR and GBAC fundamentals online course. Please see the program details and links below.**

1. Commercial facility owners looking for GBAC STAR accreditation can follow the link [here](#).



2. ISSA has also released a 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](mailto:chuckn@mediaedge.ca) or contact him at (416) 803-4653.