

## SASKATOON'S TCU PLACE PURSUES GBAC STAR™ ACCREDITATION



SASKATOON, SK. – (September 17, 2020) TCU Place in downtown Saskatoon, Sask. has affirmed its commitment to the health and safety of its staff and guests by pursuing the Global Biorisk Advisory Council® (GBAC) STAR™ accreditation for outbreak prevention, response, and recovery. GBAC STAR™ is the gold standard of prepared facilities and provides third-party validation that facilities have rigorous protocols in place for thorough response to biorisk situations.

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. The program is administered by GBAC, a division of ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association.

TCU Place has been working over the past months to create a Safe Reopening Plan, in accordance with government and health regulations and by engaging with government authorities, other venues, suppliers, partners and industry leaders to develop the health and safety protocols that will ensure the continued safety of employees, guests and partners. Applying for GBAC STAR is aimed at ensuring that these protocols meet internationally accredited standards.

“We know the vital role that our building and our industry play in Saskatoon’s economic recovery following COVID-19. And as excited as we are to reopen our doors, we are adamant about first taking extra precautions to protect our guests, performers, meeting and event planners, and employees,” said Tammy Sweeney, Chief Operating Officer of TCU Place. “This is our first priority, and we have an obligation to design the plan to keep people safe as they begin to attend large public gatherings. GBAC STAR forms a key part of our reopening strategy. The processes will help us to lead our industry and our city out of this crisis as we instill a sense of trust and confidence in our clients.”

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 proper use of 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.”

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### **About TCU Place**

Located in downtown Saskatoon, Sask., TCU Place is a leading conference facility in Western Canada. With over 104,000 square feet of convention space, this facility is one of the most versatile properties in Saskatoon. The Convention Centre houses 21 different rooms with configurations that allow unlimited combinations, as well as Sid Buckwold Theatre – a 2,074 soft seat theatre that has hosted international and national performers, speakers and theatrical productions.

TCU Place is owned by the City of Saskatoon. The facility is operated by the Centennial Auditorium and Convention Centre Corporation, a not-for-profit organization with oversight from a volunteer Board of Directors appointed by the City of Saskatoon. For more information, visit <https://tcuplace.com/>.

### **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-canada.com](http://www.issa-canada.com) or call (866) 864-8273 or (905) 665-8001.

### **About MediaEdge Communications**

For more than 25 years, MediaEdge has been at the forefront of communication solutions for

organizations within a variety of business sectors. MediaEdge is a leading provider of non-dues revenues for associations offering exceptional no-cost member benefits through a number of innovative products and services. Find out more by visiting [www.mediaedge.ca](http://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. By using the special promo code **“MediaEdgeCourse”** registrants can 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.