

Calgary's largest convention venues achieve coveted GBAC STAR™ accreditation

Calgary, AB – (October 7, 2020) Calgary TELUS Convention Centre (CTCC) and BMO Centre at Stampede Park (BMO Centre) are proud to announce that both venues in what is soon-to-be Western Canada's largest convention destination, have achieved [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 both 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.

"We want to ensure clients are comfortable and safe hosting events in our venues and for that, we need to meet the highest standards of cleaning and disinfection," says Kurby Court, President and CEO of CTCC. "Achieving this globally recognized industry accreditation is something to be proud of and the fact that two venues in our city are now accredited confirms Calgary's commitment to be a safe destination to meet in."

"From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have worked diligently to collaborate and adapt to this new environment in order to address the increased safety precautions required for live events to return," says Greg Newton, General Manager, BMO Centre. "Achieving GBAC accreditation is a key part of our commitment to the safety and comfort of our clients and guests, as well as getting members of our community back to work and our economy engaged."

"Having Calgary's two largest hosting venues accredited in the highest-level of cleanliness and infection prevention demonstrates how diligently our destination is working to provide safety and comfort for visitors and Calgarians," says Cindy Ady, CEO, Tourism Calgary. "The collaboration amongst partners and venues helps to ensure consistent protocols and experiences through our city, which we know is very important to both meeting and event planners and event attendees. We look forward to welcoming visitors to experience these enhancements."

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About Calgary TELUS Convention Centre

The [Calgary TELUS Convention Centre](#) is focused on enhancing the services that we provide well beyond the venue—to create a place and experience that supports all events for people to convene, connect and converse together. What started as a central location for gathering has grown into a next generation of convention services and experiences.

About the Calgary Stampede

The [Calgary Stampede](#) and BMO Centre at Stampede Park host more than 1,200 business, tourism, sporting, hospitality and community events every year, welcoming more than four million guests from every corner of the world. Together, these events generate over \$540M annually for our community, in local hotels, restaurants, and other businesses. Exemplifying the theme, We're Greatest Together, the Calgary Stampede is a volunteer-

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supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and celebrates our western heritage, cultures and community spirit. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities.

About Tourism Calgary

[Tourism Calgary](#) is the official destination marketing and development organization for Calgary's tourism industry. For more than 60 years, the organization's primary purpose has been to promote Calgary and area as the destination of choice for leisure travellers. With a vision of making Calgary the ultimate host city, Tourism Calgary markets the city locally, nationally and internationally and advocates for its ongoing development as a destination. The organization hosts and attracts visitors and events and activates the city by fostering the growth of shareable, memorable experiences. Calgary's tourism industry contributes approximately \$2.5 billion in visitor spending by over 7 million visitors annually.

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. For information on ISSA's Canadian division, ISSA Canada, visit 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.

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 or contact him at (416) 803-4653.