



## Bell Centre Becomes the First Canadian Hockey Arena to Achieve GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation



**MONTREAL (April 26, 2021)** – Groupe CH has announced that the Bell Centre has demonstrated its commitment to employee, customer, and visitor 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. Bell Centre is the first Canadian hockey arena to achieve the accreditation.

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.

"Since the start of the pandemic, our priority as an organization is to do everything possible to ensure that we create a safe and reassuring work environment for our employees, our teams as well as for the opposing teams who will have to use the Bell Centre," underlines Daniel Trottier, Executive Vice President, Guest Services and Facilities Operations at Groupe CH. "Our teams have worked tirelessly for several months to establish safety and risk management protocols that meet the highest standards of safety and compliance with health measures as requested by the Public Health authorities. This GBAC STAR accreditation validates our teams' excellent work. The Bell Centre therefore obtains the same third-party validation as the Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau International Airport in Montreal, ensuring that the building is ready to welcome the return of hockey in complete safety."

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](https://gbac.org/star). See which facilities are accredited or are working towards accreditation via the [GBAC STAR Facility Directory](#).



### **About Groupe CH**

Groupe CH, Quebec's premier sports and entertainment organization, provides unique and memorable experiences for its fans and spectators. Groupe CH owns the Club de hockey Canadien Inc. and the Rocket de Laval. Through evenko and L'Équipe Spectra, the organization's cultural and entertainment division promotes and presents more than 1,500 shows, festivals, and events each year. In addition to the Bell Centre in Montreal, the group owns performance venues of all sizes such as MTELUS, Astral and Corona Theatre, and acts as exclusive manager for several other venues including Place Bell in Laval. A sense of community is part of Groupe CH's DNA. Through the Montreal Canadiens Children's Foundation and the evenko Foundation, the organization is making a difference in the lives of thousands of young people in Quebec.

### **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 and service accreditation programs, 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 10,500 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**

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.**

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.