

July 19, 2019

MEDIA RELEASE [not for distribution]

Compass Centre for Sexual Wellness programs and services find new home at YWCA Edmonton.

Edmonton – Compass Centre for Sexual Wellness is making a change designed to better support the communities they serve. Starting in late August, YWCA Edmonton will begin delivering sexual health support and education programs previously offered by Compass Centre.

The three programs currently offered by Compass Centre will now be delivered by YWCA Edmonton. These programs include: education for community groups around sexual health, healthy sexual relationships, and consent; support for individuals around sexual health, STIs, pregnancy testing and reproductive rights; and multicultural community outreach.

“Demand for sexual health programs and education is increasing,” says Erin Bilawchuk, Executive Director of Compass Centre. “Compass Centre wanted to find a way to better serve our community in the area of sexual health across the lifespan. We took the time to find an organization that aligned with our mission and values to take over the delivery of the services. Ultimately, Compass Centre reached out to the YWCA. We believe the programs previously offered by Compass Centre can increase and evolve to meet the growing needs of the community once the YWCA integrates them in to their current programs and services.”

YWCA Edmonton will supplement their new sexual health support services with their existing counselling services, offering additional psychological care for clients who need it. They will also integrate the Compass Centre’s sexual health curriculum within its existing programs, offering more robust and impactful sexual education to youth in Edmonton.

“We are excited to expand our reach within the community and believe these programs align with our goals to advance the wellness and growth of all individuals at every stage of their lives,” says Leslie Allen, CEO of YWCA Edmonton. “The YWCA is committed to providing support for people so they can lead safe, happy, and healthy lives. This will now include sexual health services, education, and outreach.”

The organizations and program funders are working together on a seamless transition of services between the two agencies. Compass Centre and YWCA Edmonton would like to thank Edmonton Community Foundation, Family and Community Support Services, and United Way of the Alberta Capital region for their support.

Compass Centre has offered reproductive rights counselling, pregnancy testing, and comprehensive sexual education to Edmonton and area. From its founding as Planned Parenthood 55 years ago, Compass Centre has been an agency supporting the sexual health of the Edmonton community.

YWCA Edmonton is a member of YWCA Canada, the oldest and largest women’s social service organization in the nation. Founded in 1907, YWCA Edmonton is a women’s organization that advances the wellness and growth of individuals. We provide education and services to thousands every year through leadership programs, counselling, outdoor education, and supporting persons with disabilities.

For more information on both Compass Centre and YWCA Edmonton please visit www.compasscentre.ca and www.ywcaofedmonton.org.

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