

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Busby Centre and Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County Branch (CMHA SCB) Collaborative Opportunity to Address Growing Community Needs

Barrie, Ontario - June 27, 2023 - In a joint effort to respond to the increasing challenges of homelessness, housing insecurity, mental health, and addiction crises, the Canadian Mental Health Association Simcoe County Branch (CMHA SCB) and The Busby Centre announce an exciting development in our longstanding collaboration. The organizations are embarking on a strategic realignment of physical space to more effectively respond to the needs of the community, with The Busby Centre acquiring the property at 88/90 Mulcaster Street. CMHA SCB plans to relocate its current services from 90 Mulcaster Street to a new location, to be announced.

The co-location partnership between CMHA SCB and The Busby Centre began in 2015 when they spearheaded the coordination of a Shared Social Service (S³) Facility through Barrie Pathways. This initiative aimed to provide comprehensive support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the community. The S³ Facility encompassed vital services such as a drop-in program, community meals, emergency shelter services, and complementary housing and health services from various community partners, including Empower Simcoe, Ontario Works, County of Simcoe Paramedic Services, CMHA, Purposeful Reintegration Team (Elizabeth Fry), Listening Post, and more.

Recognizing the urgency and scale of the community's challenges, CMHA SCB and The Busby Centre remain committed to meeting the growing service demands and pressures. CMHA SCB's 2021 to 2025 strategic plan, specifically *Pillar 3, Action 3.A.iii, includes a comprehensive review of their facilities to explore co-location opportunities*. Furthermore, CMHA SCB has been actively revitalizing and renovating several facilities throughout Simcoe County. The Busby Centre, in alignment with its current Strategic Plan, has also dedicated efforts to enhance its facilities.

Regardless of the physical changes, both organizations remain unwavering in their commitment to continued collaboration, ensuring seamless access to critical services for those in need.

Quotes:

[Quote from Dr. Valerie Grdisa, CEO, CMHA Simcoe County Branch]: "We are excited about this new development which evolved based on the strength of our collaborative relationship and we look forward to the anticipated outcomes and positive impact for the community. By reimagining our services and facilities, we can better respond to the pressing needs of



Canadian Mental
Health Association
Simcoe County
Gambling, Substance Use and Mental Health Services



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individuals experiencing homelessness and gambling, substance use and mental health challenges."

[Quote from Sara Peddle - Executive Director, The Busby Centre]: "This exploration marks an important milestone in our joint efforts to address the crises faced by our community. We remain committed to working together with CMHA SCB and other community partners, ensuring that our services align with the evolving needs of those we serve. Together, we can create a stronger and more supportive environment for everyone."

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