



May 1, 2020 COVID-19 UPDATE

Main Street Project's current priorities:

Operationalizing new shelter located at 190 Disraeli

190/200 Disraeli is a 76,000 square foot building donated to Main Street Project by Dennis Levy and family for use as a 24/7 shelter and drop-in facility during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Physical distancing protocols were not obtainable within Main Street Projects 75 Martha Street Shelter. Six feet is required between beds or mats. To meet compliance we took a staged approach which included:

- On April 18th female identifying shelter clients relocated from 637 Main Street (Mitchell's) Warming Center to the 2nd floor of 190 Disraeli.
- On April 24th male identifying shelter clients relocated from 72 Martha Street to the 1st floor of 190 Disraeli.
- On April 28th male identifying clients relocated from 76 Martha Street to the 1st floor zone 2 of 190 Disraeli.
- As of May 1st new 24/7 drop-in located at 190 Disraeli.



Many of the necessary safety and plumbing upgrades have been funded by Federal Reaching Home COVID-19 funding and through Manitoba Housing. The City of Winnipeg fast-tracked all permitting and assisted in accessing the Federal Emergency Stockpile to obtain 150 cots/covers/sheets/pillows. The City also provided volunteers to assist with set up. We appreciate their support!

Thank you also to Bockstael Construction, Jeff Gill & Red River College, Philippe Kwon & Elite Lighting, The Winnipeg Foundation, United Way Winnipeg and individual donors for your support.



Emergency 5-week renovation of Mitchells building

The federal government approved an emergency advancement of \$2 million earmarked for a 120-bed renovation of the Mitchell Fabrics building located at the corner of Main Street and Logan Avenue. Funding is coming through the National Housing Co-investment Fund. It was expected that this funding would flow to Main Street Project during mid-2020 but will be released immediately to assist MSP in dealing with the COVID-19 crisis through the immediate increase shelter beds.

Renovations are underway and expected to be complete at the end of May. The original Community Health Centre building plans are on hold, however much of the work being completed now was a necessary (such as pouring new concrete floor in the basement, asbestos abatement, new plumbing and new electrical). We will return to the original plan as soon as possible. Capital campaign commitments and pledges from major donors and donations directed towards the campaign will be designated to the future project.

Bockstael is partnering with Arta and Cibinel Architecture on the design and Tower on the engineering side. Main Street Project's building committee remains involved in the emergency renovation and is providing oversight and advice.

Thank you to the National Housing Co-investment Fund, the Province of Manitoba, Bockstael Construction, Tower Engineering, the Winnipeg Foundation, United Way Winnipeg, individual donors, and the MSP Building Committee members for their support.





Isolation Space

Working closely with the sector, Main Street Project opened 39 isolation suites so that individuals experiencing homelessness have a safe space to self-isolate while waiting for a COVID-19 test result or to recover from COVID-19. The space is very specific to the shelter system and homeless people who have no ability to isolate. The building is located in the downtown area and has been operational since April 10. Services available onsite or that can be arranged onsite include primary health care, mental health supports, addictions needs, substance withdrawal management and activities of daily living as well as medication management, food/hygiene and solo leisure-activities in order to encourage people to remain in isolation. Upon entering, individuals are assigned a caseworker that will assist clients with other services, such as primary housing or other referral when they are safely discharged.



Thank you to Virgin Radio Winnipeg and the Ace Burpee Show, Dufresne Furniture, Palliser Furniture, EQ3, and Ikea Canada for helping us furnish all 39 isolation suites. Thank you to Shortline Moving Solutions for helping us to move this furniture. Thank you to Kinsmen Club of Winnipeg for helping us to purchase laundry machines and tablets for the rooms. Thank you to Merv and Lynda Gunter for helping us to purchase TVs for the rooms. Special thank you to the family of Bernice Burko for donating handmade blankets to the isolation suites.

Other priorities

- Continuing to maintain standards regarding social distancing practices that are currently in place among all of our programs.
- Continuing to run our essential programs like our food bank in a modified and safe manner. We have organized delivering food hampers to residents at the Bell Hotel to address food insecurity.
- Our residential programs continue to be full and we are not taking any more intakes.
- Organizational-wide volunteer program continues to be suspended, with some volunteers still in place where absolutely needed.

These are the top priorities we are advocating for to meet the immediate needs of Main Street Project and the community we serve. Please contact us if you have any questions by emailing admin@mainstreetproject.ca. - Main Street Project COVID-19 Response Team