



Highland Park Community Association
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STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE FRESH START RECOVERY CENTRE

The Highland Park Community Association is pleased to provide their continued support for the work done by the Fresh Start Recovery Centre. The organization was founded in 1992, and the Centre at 411 41 Avenue NE was built and became operational in 2012. It is situated in the Greenview Industrial Area, which is adjacent to our residential community.

Fresh Start provides a much-needed service to their clients and their families who struggle against addictions to alcohol or drugs, both in terms of active treatment and then with follow-up supports and care. The value of their program was recognized in January / February 2020 when the Alberta Government announced a large 3-year funding commitment to Fresh Start – one of only 3 treatment centres so awarded [[Alberta premier announces money for 76 new addiction treatment beds | Globalnews.ca](#)]. The value of the work done by Fresh Start can also be gauged by learning that Charity Intelligence Canada recently awarded the Recovery Centre the designation of **2020 Top 10 Impact Charities**.

<https://charityintelligence.ca/charity-details/153-fresh-start-recovery-centre>

Fresh Start has worked over the past 9 years to be a respected partner with our community. The following provide examples of how Fresh Start participates in the community in a positive way. For several years they have provided occasional volunteer labour at our community centre (e.g. hauling up the large commercial barbecue from the hall basement and setting it up for community events, helping to flood our community rink, etc.). More significantly, Fresh Start residents have voluntarily prepared in their commercial kitchen the meals for our monthly Seniors Luncheons at our community hall over the past few years and delivered the hot entrees and helped serve the meal to our seniors. The prepared luncheons are much appreciated by the Seniors in attendance, and the Community Association volunteers greatly appreciate the support provided by Fresh Start volunteers.

We realize that welcoming a treatment centre and its clients into an established community may cause residents to feel apprehensive. Highland Park's experience with Fresh Start, however, has been a completely positive one. When the Fresh Start Recovery Centre first opened, there was

trepidation expressed by some members of the community. There were fears of addicts wandering the alleys and streets, engaging in crime, and leaving drug paraphernalia strewn about. Those fears have proven to be unfounded. In fact, one could argue that any such behaviour found in a community is by the people who should be in a recovery program, not by people who are actually in a program. We know that Fresh Start has a zero tolerance policy for every one of its residents, so any use of drugs or alcohol is grounds for dismissal from the program. We can also report that the Fresh Start building and grounds themselves always appear very well kept, clean and tidy.

Finally, it should be noted that prior to Fresh Start opening its doors, Highland Park community members and Fresh Start members worked together to draft a Good Neighbour Agreement to outline the expectations that the community had for Fresh Start's organization and operations, as well as plans for liaising together to solve any problems that arose. Highland Park has never had to use that Agreement to resolve any issues, as none have arisen. We are happy to report that Fresh Start has proven to be a very Good Neighbour.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of the following HPCA Board members. Thank you.

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