

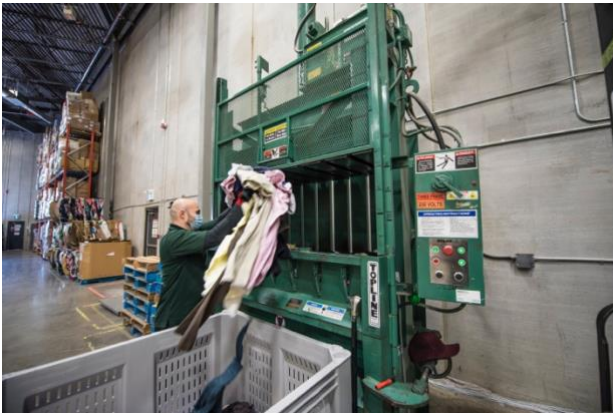
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **WINS LAUNCHES TRAINING PROGRAM TO PROVIDE WAREHOUSE EXPERIENCE**

***WINS is helping Calgarians gain skills and competencies in the warehousing sector***

**CALGARY** – April 19, 2021– The [Women In Need Society \(WINS\)](#) is pleased to announce the launch of a new training program aimed at providing valuable skills and experiences for clients seeking sustainable work in warehousing. [Warehouse Ready by WINS](#) is a six-week program open to low-income individuals, featuring four weeks of warehouse competency seminars followed by a two-week internship providing first-hand experience.

Participants of the new program, which begins the first intake on April 19, will not only learn skills specific to a career in warehousing but will also develop general life skills and awareness of how to be a great employee, how to effectively communicate with colleagues and supervisors, time management, conflict management and more.



*A WINS employee loads clothing scraps into a bailer in the WINS Donation Centre to prepare the fabric for recycling.*

The program is being funded by the Government of Alberta's Community and Social Services (CSS) and will operate out of WINS' own warehouse in its Donation Centre, which is staffed with both employees and volunteers to sort donations, recycle refuse, and distribute products to the WINS Family Thrift Stores among other responsibilities. At the conclusion of the program, participants can apply for a 90-Day Temporary Placement with WINS, which will utilize a Workplace Supplement Fund to ensure clients have minimum wage paid employment for 90 days.

“We are proud to be able to offer this program as just one more resource our clients can utilize on their journeys to self-sufficiency,” said Karen Ramchuk, CEO & President of WINS. “We’ve seen incredible success with our Retail Ready program, which Warehouse Ready is modelled after, with more than 50% of the programs’ participants going on to find employment in the retail industry. Warehouse Ready will provide the same philosophy of holistic teaching that will provide skills and experience that will benefit them no matter where their career leads.”

“We know many Albertans suffered job losses and hours and wages cuts due to the ongoing pandemic, so we’re thrilled to support an employment service helping individuals get on their feet and find steady employment,” said Minister Rajan Sawhney. “Providing these opportunities will put employees on a path to success.”

Participants of Warehouse Ready will also receive WHIMS and First Aid certification as well as training/certification for common warehouse equipment such as forklifts, pallet jacks and other machinery.

WINS is a Calgary success story, with five retail thrift stores located throughout the city with revenues helping fund the organization's programs. This includes House to Home by WINS, which provides essential home items, clothing and furniture to clients in need to help them create healthy and functional living spaces.

Eligibility requirements for Warehouse Ready include being able to lift 50 lbs, being able to stand for long periods of time, and the ability to effectively communicate in English. For more information about Warehouse Ready or to fill an application for the next intake dates of May 31 to July 10, visit [winsyyc.ca](http://winsyyc.ca).

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*A WINS staff member prepares to break down boxes in the WINS Donation Centre after assisting with a donation drop off.*

### **About Women In Need Society (WINS)**

Women In Need Society (WINS) is a Calgary-based charity helping women in need and their families. WINS provides women with the resources, knowledge, skills and confidence to achieve self-sufficiency. Operating three Community Resource Hubs, House to Home, Retail Ready, Warehouse Ready, a Recycling Program and the WINS Thrift Stores social enterprise, including More Store and Twice New. For more information please visit [www.winsyyc.ca](http://www.winsyyc.ca).

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