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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bissell Centre Announces New Affordable Child Care Expansion

EDMONTON – Tuesday October 15th, 2019 – Bissell Centre is ready begin construction on its **NEW Early Learning & Child Care Centre**. For over 40 years, Bissell Centre has operated a free, respite Child Care that welcomes up to 40 infants and children every day. To meet the growing need for quality, affordable child care and to better support low-income families, Bissell is expanding their accredited Early Learning & Child Care Centre to include 30 new full-time affordable spots with extended hours. The expansion will impact 400 individual children each year and provide support to countless low-income families across Edmonton.

The new Centre is located *near* Bissell in the Boyle street neighbourhood. Offering amenities such as; an infant room, a baby room, 2 toddler rooms, 2 pre-school rooms, an outdoor play space, learning space for parenting classes and onsite access to Bissell’s family supports program.

Bissell Centre staff are excited about new project and the impact it will have, “I’ve been in child care field for over 22 years,” says Sylvianne Robinson, Manager of the Early Childhood Development Centre, “I’ve never seen or heard of an ELCC quite like Bissell’s. We remove barriers parents and guardians have by providing over 40 respite/drop-in spots for **free**... it supports them with things they need accomplish for their families whatever that might be; job interviews, mental health appointments, housing workshops and parenting classes etc. We meet parents where they are at; they may be vulnerable and scared when they first walk in and it’s our job to show them that they have our support.”

Bissell Centre is over 60% of the way to their fundraising goal and are seeking public and private donations to complete the project and get the doors open.

Available for interview:

Gary St. Amand, CEO

Website www.bissellcentre.org/newbissellchildcare

About Bissell Centre

Bissell Centre works toward the elimination of poverty in our community by using evidence-based methods to achieve its vision. Bissell is an inclusive, client-centered organization that recognizes the dignity and strengths of individuals and families and offers the supports they need to rise up out of poverty and homelessness and find hope for the future. Bissell reframes the conversation around poverty, why it exists, and how we can all work together to end it forever.