



**PLACENTIA
WELCOME
CENTRE INC.**

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UPDATE - PLACENTIA WELCOME CENTRE INC.

(Formerly Placentia Parish Activities Society Inc.)

NAME CHANGE: We recently changed our corporation's name to better reflect our evolving role and activities within the community. We are no longer associated with a parish or the archdiocese. We now operate independently as a registered charity, with a mandate focused entirely on community service, inclusion, and engagement.

Our mission statement best captures our purpose and direction:

Our mission is to honour the historical significance of this space by repurposing the church into a vibrant community hub. We strive to preserve its architectural heritage while transforming it into a place of inclusivity, creativity, and service. By fostering cultural, educational, and social initiatives, we aim to create a welcoming environment where people from all walks of life can connect, grow, and contribute to the betterment of our community.

WHAT'S HAPPENDING: Over a year after the community-led purchase of the local church landmark, the restoration team is proud to announce significant progress in transforming the historic site into a vibrant, inclusive community centre.

There is a shared "impatience" between our team and the community, and that is a sign of how much everyone cares about the building's future. It is frustrating when the finish line keeps moving. A mandatory building plan review is in effect, a process that takes time, engineering expertise and then an evaluation by Service NL. This approval is delaying the opening of the building to the public.

NAVIGATING CHALLENGES: Restoring a historic landmark with the vulnerability of very high roofs presents unique logistical and financial challenges that go beyond standard maintenance. High-wind damage naturally strains budgets and timelines; repairs are always costly.

BUILDING A HOME FOR ALL

Through a Job Creation Partnership (JCP) initiative, the former "Nuns' Chapel" has been converted into a modern office space. This area is now rented to serve as a welcoming resource for newcomers and immigrants. Additionally, the "Altar Boys' Room" has been reimagined as a Community Closet, providing essential warm clothing to those in need.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY UPDATES

The preservation journey has achieved several critical milestones over the past year:

- **Heating System:** Two new propane furnaces are now operational and awaiting final inspection.
- **Accessibility:** With the support of donors and the fundraising committee, two handicapped-accessible washrooms have been installed.
- **Architectural Shifts:** The interior layout is finalized, including the strategic removal of 30 pews to create a flexible assembly and allowable safety space.

THE VISION FOR THE FUTURE

* **Community Hub:** Transforming the landmark into a dedicated venue for concerts and the arts.

* **Modern Comfort:** Upgrading the interior space with paint, new carpets, padded seating, new sound system, and accessibility features.

* **Exterior:** Investing in a new roof and fresh exterior paint is a significant undertaking, but these updates will beautify our community for every resident and visitors alike.

THE LONG-TERM VISION remains clear: ensuring this landmark survives another century as a dedicated venue for concerts, the arts, and modern community gatherings.

FUNDRAISING: CHASE THE ACE is now in effect every Sunday evening at the Royal Canadian Legion at 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Come Support Us!**

WHERE TO FIND SERVICES WHILE WE ARE TEMPORARILY CLOSED:

The first line of service is by phone **709-725-0718**, www.placentiawelcomecentre.com or info@placentiawelcomecentre.com to arrange a meeting with our project coordinator, who is available weekdays for 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or evenings if unable to meeting during regular business hours.

While the main building is undergoing these updates, clients can continue to connect with us and access services at these partner locations in **Placentia**:

- **50 Plus Club:** Providing space for meetings with newcomers and senior-focused programming such as conversation circles to help with English as a second language and the availability of an instructor.
- **Placentia Public Library:** Available for administrative needs and community resources, with our project manager meeting with clients at that site.
- **Royal Canadian Legion:** Offering a venue for larger gatherings or organizational business. We hope to sponsor an event each month to help newcomers meet together with members of the community.

While we look forward to hosting you in our own space, these local venues provide a wonderful opportunity for us to connect more deeply with the neighborhood alongside our clients. We believe that using these shared environments is a great way for all of us to truly integrate and become an active part of the community.