



Berkana House

**Location:**

Calgary, Alberta

Short Description:

A community residence for women on federal day parole. Capacity of 10 with 8 bedrooms.

Residence Information:

Address: 11419 8th Street SW,
Calgary, AB T2W 2N4
Phone: (403) 640-8911
Fax: (403) 640-9422

Contact Information:

Coordinator: Brenda Ingham
Phone: (403) 640-8911
E-mail:
brenda.ingham@johnhoward.calgary.ab.ca

Residents Accepted:

Women who are on Federal Parole Supervision and their children where applicable. Each case is considered individually.

Acceptance Procedure:

A woman can apply through an institutional parole officer who forwards the request to the Women's Unit of Calgary Parole. The request is then forwarded to the Berkana coordinator and the review committee who will make a decision within 10 days. Please write, email or phone Sharon Low for more information.

Exclusions:

Women whose needs are greater than the services offered.

Description:

Berkana House is a Community Residential Facility (CRF) located in a quiet and safe residential area in the South West of Calgary. It is ½ hour from the city centre by bus and is within easy walking distance for recreational, program and shopping services and amenities. The apartments are fully furnished, and the women are responsible for their own shopping and food preparation

History:

Berkana House began as a joint project between the Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary and the Calgary John Howard Society, in response to an identified need for a women-centred community residential facility for women only, and for women and their children. The facility opened in October 2001, and continues as a joint project of the two agencies.

Institutions the Residence Visits:

- Edmonton Institute for Women (EIFW)
- Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge

Programs:

- Weekly mandatory house meetings that involve social and learning experiences through crafts, potlucks, guest speakers, outings etc.
- Weekly Big Book and Healing Circles
- The benefit of an Elder in residence every second week to hold talking circles, individual counseling and smudging.
- A closed meeting with an Elizabeth Fry worker alternate Mondays that may include outings, crafts or general discussions.
- Three case managers, one of which is assigned to each woman to assist her in identifying goals and directions for the future as well as to encourage and assist with daily practical matters.

Related Community Programs:

- Elizabeth Fry programs for life skills training and employment opportunities
- AA, NA and GA meetings in the community
- Servants Anonymous
- Access to the Inter-Faith food bank
- Close and easy access to libraries and recreational facilities for sport and computer/reading skills training
- Access to safe volunteering opportunities
- A variety of community-based employment preparation and/or life skills programs

CSC Liaison Officer:

Name: Sue Coatham

Phone: (403) 292-5528