



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Synergy Centre is LEED-ing the way

Lloydminster, Sask. - The innovative, cutting-edge environment at The Synergy Centre will be an exceptional asset for Synergy Credit Union members and the community.

Aiming to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification has been an objective since the initial planning concept. LEED is a green building certification program developed to recognize outstanding building strategies and practices that save money and resources throughout the life of a structure. Every step of the process to date was taken with those objectives in mind, aligning with many of Synergy Credit Union's existing strategies. That will continue into the future with initiatives for day-to-day operations in the new retail location that are intended to reduce the carbon footprint.

Synergy Credit Union's current downtown location in Lloydminster was built in 1970.

"This design will be great for our members, it creates a more pleasing work environment for our staff and will be tremendous for the community," said Synergy Credit Union CEO Glenn Stang. "It's going to be very welcoming, spacious and comfortable for members to come in and do business and for everyone to enjoy."

Striving to meet LEED standards has been done through a number of steps, which began with a construction process that aimed to reduce waste by 75 per cent:

- The office walls and flooring are adjustable and movable, giving the location flexibility to meet future needs. And it eliminates future costly and material-wasting renovations.
- The state-of-the art mechanical and control room provides a comfortable and healthy environment throughout the building, while being 47 per cent more efficient than similar-sized buildings. The climate can be controlled remotely from any location with an Internet connection.
- The landscaping is designed for arid climates, requiring less water and fertilizer resources.

"The world is changing so fast, you can't predict what financial service delivery is going to look like in five or 10 years," said Synergy Credit Union Chief Innovation and People Officer Pat Horton. "By using portable floors and wall systems, we are ready for whatever the future brings us without major renovation costs. The Synergy Centre is going to be a major landmark in Lloydminster for years to come, I believe."

Additional features of The Synergy Centre include:

- The naturally lit, spacious environment allows for less energy to be used by artificial lighting. The lighting is activated by sensors only when needed.

- When the building was designed, the “winged” external shape was chosen to maximize the positioning of the sun. That complements the fritted glass, which has ceramic beads inside it. The design of the beads allows that when the sun is high, it blocks more heat and energy, allowing for more comfort and less need

for air conditioning during the summer. When the sun is low, which happens more often in the winter, it lets more sunlight in, increasing the heat coming in from the windows.

“The natural light, to me, is one of the huge benefits of the new location,” said Horton. “It is so bright and spacious that on most days of the year, we can work in there with the lights not needing to be turned on. Studies show that people are happier and more productive in a natural light, comfortable environment.”

Once the retail location is open, LEED objectives will be engrained in everything Synergy staff does. There will be recycling programs with a primary aim at reducing paper and material use. Hybrid vehicles will be available for staff travelling and there are measures in place to encourage employees to bike and walk to work, such as on-site showers and secure bike parking. There will also be electronic charging points to encourage electrical vehicles for members, staff and future tenants. These measures will also help to attract future tenants who are looking to work in a location that aims to reduce its carbon footprint.

More information on Synergy’s goal to become LEED silver certified can be found at www.synergycu.ca/LEED.

The Synergy Centre, located at 4908 42 St., will become the new retail location for Synergy Credit Union in Lloydminster.

The Synergy Centre is scheduled to open to the public on March 14.