

# Bell Hotel rehab: 42 supportive units for the homeless

April 23, 2010

[Ottawa and Manitoba announced](#) a combined contribution of \$5.3 million toward the renovation of the 104-year-old Bell Hotel into a haven for the chronically homeless under the *Housing First* model. The *Housing First* model advocates stable tenure first, followed by supports to deal with issues that are causing the homelessness.



BIOS Architecture

All units will have kitchens and bathrooms and are bachelor units designed for single residents. On the main floor there will be a commercial kitchen for teaching, dining areas, washrooms, and offices for support workers (case workers, health care practitioners etc.). In the lower level there will be recreation areas and a cultural room. An elevator will be added and 6 of the units will be totally wheelchair accessible.

CentreVenture stepped in and bought the hotel a couple years ago. CentreVenture will provide the building for \$1/year for 15 years.

Stephen Fletcher, the federal MP present for the announcement, steered off course when he suggested that the building should be dry; effectively a “housing second” approach. “I think the majority of Canadians feel people who participate in these types of programs need to demonstrate a positive step in their lives, and part of that is to reduce their exposure to addictions and alcohol.” However, this distraction has quickly been [declared a non-issue](#).

Posted on the [Winnipeg Rental Network](#)

