

Envision moving back to regular Estevan office

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Rod Belisle was among those who moved office furniture into Envision's Estevan office.

The Envision Counselling and Support Centre should be back in its normal Estevan office this week.

Envision was forced to move out of its Estevan location in early June, after a faulty sprinkler system flooded their office. The sprinkler system malfunction also affected the neighbouring Jesus our Light International Ministry church. Both are located in a strip mall in the 1300-block of Seventh Street.

Envision has been seeing its clients in a vacant area next door to its normal office area.

But repairs to Envision's Estevan office are now complete, and the process of moving back into its Estevan location started on Friday. Envision staff brought over items from their temporary location, and a moving company brought in new office equipment.

The Envision employees will continue with the moving process on Tuesday and Wednesday, and

their regular Estevan location is expected to be open on Thursday.

Envision's Estevan office was closed on Tuesday, and will remain closed Wednesday as part of the move, but their offices in Oxbow, Carlyle and Weyburn have remained open, and have been able to accept phone calls from those who need immediate support.

Lynda Rideout, the associate executive director for Envision, said the confines of the temporary home were tight, but their attitudes remained positive.

"We were so fortunate that there were extra desks in that space, so that when we experienced this, we were able to move in there and use the existing office equipment that was there," said Rideout. "So we were able to continue serving our clients relatively quickly, and that wasn't as stressful as it could have been."

Employees and clients handled the shift to the temporary location well.

"Clients have done really well, actually," said Rideout. "There is still a private space for each of the counsellors to have their clients come in to, and fortunately that it was right next door, they haven't had to try to find us somewhere else."

The one thing that the temporary space didn't have was a board room, which has been used for larger meetings, group sessions, workshops and more. Envision is looking forward to having access to a board room once again, and the organization will be able to offer its full fleet of programs.

Extensive work was needed to get the permanent home ready for Envision to return to normal. The owners of the building have stripped out the entire ceiling, and new ceiling tiles are in place. The building has been reinsulated and new drywall has been installed on the lower parts of the walls in the building.

New carpet and linoleum were also installed, and new doors have been added. The walls were painted in the colours that Envision likes to use.

"It feels like a brand new home that we're coming to," said Rideout.

Envision was able to salvage some office furniture in areas of the building that weren't as badly affected, but the agency did suffer quite a large loss.

"We've had to replace pretty much all of our furniture," said Rideout. "I think there were only about five pieces that were salvageable."