

# A First Home for New Arrivals

When Ferial found out he would be emigrating to Winnipeg from his home country, he knew he had a lot of work ahead of him. The logistics of planning a move of such magnitude are complex enough, but it's upon arrival in a new country that the real work begins. How would he make friends and become a part of the community? How would he navigate his new homes' streets, services and customs? Integrating into a new country can be an overwhelming task.

The first step is to find secure housing and that's where Abri Marguerite comes in. Ferial was able to reserve a spot in the transitional housing offered by Abri Marguerite and administered through l'Accueil francophone. These transitional apartments are designed for those arriving in Manitoba; a safe haven to start a new life. Available to individuals and families at a low cost, guests are welcomed into a home and community while they find their bearings in Winnipeg.

“When I found out that Katia, an employee of Abri Marguerite, would meet me at the apartment anytime I arrived, I was so relieved,” explains Ferial. “To know that I wouldn't have to stay overnight in the airport, waiting for business hours to arrive, meant the world to me. It saved me so much stress and worry.”

Katia helped him settle into his new home and community, and eventually helped him find a more permanent home in Winnipeg. “She answered so many questions and helped me navigate the

programs available to help me get settled,” Ferial continues. “When it was time to choose a new apartment, another employee, Issa, met me on site and explained how to get my utilities set up and other important details.”

A stable home and a helping hand go a long way to overcoming the challenges of integrating into a new country, and Abri Marguerite is proud to provide both so new arrivals to Winnipeg can start looking ahead to a bright new future.



## BY THE NUMBERS



More than  
200 clients  
served annually



10 housing units  
with an additional  
7 units being made  
available in 2022



Residents  
from over 16  
countries



\$100,000  
annual budget

Abri Marguerite is a part of Réseau Compassion Network, a family of 13 health and social services agencies in Manitoba. Entrusted by pioneering women to bring together people of all faiths, traditions and cultures to serve Manitoba communities wherever the needs are the greatest, Réseau Compassion Network is proud to support this important work in our community.



## ABOUT US

# Abri Marguerite Inc.

Abri Marguerite is a not-for-profit/charitable organization whose primary mission is “to relieve poverty by providing residential accommodation at below market rates for francophone refugees, immigrants and others in need. It also supports, through a management agreement with Accueil francophone, an impressive number of settlement services to newcomers in need in Manitoba.”

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This strategic partnership between Réseau Compassion Network and La Société de la francophonie manitobaine (SFM) led to the creation of an innovative and one-of-a-kind solution to help with the integration of newcomers into the community. Abri Marguerite works closely with Francophone organizations to ensure that reception and other related services are available to help our clients in their journey to well-being. Abri Marguerite owns a five-apartment side-by-side facility at 178-186 rue Dumoulin in St. Boniface, thanks to an agreement with Employment and Social Development Canada. This facility

provides short term transitional housing (3 to 5 weeks) to newcomers needing a place to live upon their arrival.

Abri Marguerite also owns a second 5-unit facility located at 506 rue St-Jean Baptiste and this building receives refugees and immigrants for a transitional period that could extend from 6 months to 1 year. This allows new francophone families to settle in properly, register their children in local French schools and learn how to adapt to life in Manitoba. Both buildings and related services are managed by Accueil francophone (under the auspices of SFM).

Abri Marguerite is currently working with Dorais Charities Inc. to add 7 suites for its clients in a new 48-unit apartment complex to be built at 156 Marion St. These suites will include the much needed 3 bedrooms and accessible suites sorely needed by its clients. They will come on stream in the fall of 2022 and clients will be allowed to transition out of these suites as or remain for as long as they please. This is less of transitional facility and more focused in keeping our francophone families in the community close to the French schools, health services and local support systems.

The Abri Marguerite transitional housing model meets a growing need for affordable housing in the French-speaking immigrant community and the partnership with a local settlement services agency is recognized as an excellent model by IRCC Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada.

## BOARD DUTIES & COMMITMENTS



The board meets  
4 times per year



Total time commitment  
of 1-2 hours per month

### Network Members

Abri Marguerite | Actionmarguerite | Aulneau Renewal Centre  
Centre de santé Saint-Boniface | Centre Flavie | Charités Despins  
St-Boniface Hospital | Marymound | Sara Riel | St.Amant | Ste. Rose Health Centre  
Winnipegosis & District Health Centre | Youville Centre

