

February 8, 2006

Government seeks input into redevelopment of Legislature Grounds

Multi-party advisory committee to help guide process

Edmonton... The Alberta government will be asking architects and planners from around the world to put their best work forward to create a master plan for the redevelopment of the Alberta Legislature grounds. A multi-party advisory committee will assist in the search and help guide the planning process.

"We are looking for the very best talent, homegrown and from around the world, to give us the very best plan for the future of one of Alberta's most treasured symbols," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation.

"The Legislature belongs to all Albertans," said Oberg. "That is why it is important to include opposition MLAs and leaders from outside the provincial government and Edmonton on our advisory committee to help guide the redevelopment process."

The search will begin with the issuing of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to identify qualified firms capable of developing a master plan for the 57-acre site. Interested firms will be asked to submit information on their experience, knowledge, skills, compatibility and vision to get the job done. A short-list of respondents will be invited to go to the next stage and develop a proposal outlining their approach, work plan and fixed fee, and participate in an interview and planning workshop. The successful proponent will be contracted to develop the master plan.

The advisory committee's first task will be to review and provide input into the RFQ. The committee is made up of five MLAs representing the three main provincial parties, and three prominent Albertans from across the province. The committee will provide advice to the Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation and the project team as required.

The committee will be chaired by George Rogers, MLA for Leduc-Beaumont-Devon, and will include:

- Frank Oberle, MLA for Peace River
- Dave Rodney, MLA for Calgary-Lougheed
- Laurie Blakeman, Liberal MLA for Edmonton-Centre
- NDP MLA to be announced
- Stephen Mandel, Mayor of Edmonton
- Catherine Smith, City Councilor, City of Medicine Hat
- Irene Lewis, President, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)

There has been no significant development on the Legislature site for the past 25 years. The Terrace Building and the Legislature Annex are at the end of their useful lifespan, and the Federal Building has been vacant for more than 15 years and is steadily deteriorating. Redevelopment is required to address these issues and improve site access and aesthetics.

"The founders of this province had the courage and vision to construct a grand Legislature Building that has outlived architectural fads and withstood the test of time," said George Rogers, committee chair. "I hope that a hundred years from now, people visiting the grounds will look at what we've done and say, 'they got it right'."

"The province is showing its commitment to Albertans' capital city assets with today's announcement," said

Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel. "And all Albertans can take pride in that. With Alberta's increased world profile, it's vital that we invest in a world-class stage to help welcome that global interest."

Developing a master plan is the first step in redeveloping the site. The master plan will describe, with words, maps and diagrams, an overall development concept including both present property uses as well as future land development plans. It will not include designs for specific buildings, but may include some general information about them, such as size, location, capacity, and function. Any major future development would include a competitive, public tendering process, such as a Request for Proposals.

Government will issue the Request for Qualifications for master planning services in the coming weeks, with master planning work getting underway this spring.

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Attachment:

Backgrounder attached

Media enquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

Backgrounder

February 8, 2006

Legislature Building

Constructed: 1912
Primary use: Legislative and office
Gross floor area: 19,822 m²
Number of Floors: 7
Number of Occupants: 257
Occupants: offices of the Premier, the cabinet and other government members, the Speaker, and the Lieutenant Governor.
Designed by: A.M. Jeffers

Terrace Building

Constructed: 1952-1953, with additions in 1957 and 1961
Primary use: general office space
Gross floor area: 21,406 m²
Number of floors: 3
Number of occupants: 400
Occupants: Restructuring and Government Efficiency (Government Computing Centre), Finance, Infrastructure and Transportation (Property Management), Auditor General

The Legislature Annex

Constructed: 1952. Floors seven through 12 were added in 1964.

Primary use: office

Gross floor area: 15,034 m²

Number of Floors: 12

Number of Occupants: 185

Occupants: Opposition MLAs, along with staff from Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, Executive Council, Legislative Assembly, Solicitor General and Northern Alberta Development Council.

Designed by: Rule, Wynn and Rule in early 1950s.

Sir Frederick W. Haultain Building

Constructed: April 1956

Primary use: office space

Gross floor area: 12,798 m²

Number of Floors: 10

Number of Occupants: 301

Occupants: Alberta Finance, Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, Restructuring and Government Efficiency, Solicitor General and Public Security

Designed by: in-house, with engineering help from J. Longworth

Bowker Building

Constructed: April 1, 1929

Primary use: office space

Gross floor area: 14,261 m²

Number of Floors: 8

Number of Occupants: 477

Occupants: Justice and Attorney General, and Restructuring and Government Efficiency

Historical designation: none

Designed by: Fred H. MacDonald with input from Dr. Cecil Burgess

Federal Building

Constructed: 1958

Primary use: vacant since 1989

Gross floor area: 33,000 m²

Number of Floors: 10 stories

Number of Occupants: vacant, but could hold 700 office workers.

Occupants: vacant.

Designed by: George Heath MacDonald

The Government of Alberta purchased the Federal Building in 1983 as part of a three-way land deal with the City of Edmonton and the Government of Canada:

- The Federal government sold the City the Prince of Wales Armoury, Southside Post Office land, the Ortona Armoury and some land at 118 Avenue/170 Street.
- The Federal government sold to the province the Federal Building and associated lands for \$20,500,000. The Federal Building land was seen as an anchor for the northeast corner of the site.
- The City sold to the Federal government the land upon which Canada Place sits.



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