

November 28, 2007

New residence for Lieutenant Governor on indefinite hold

Edmonton... The Alberta government has halted plans to build a new residence for the Lieutenant Governor.

“This is the right thing to do,” said Luke Ouellette, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. “Constructing a residence for the Queen’s representative in Alberta must be done in a fiscally responsible way. The project cannot be completed within the approved budget, and increasing funding doesn’t make any sense when there are so many other priorities to consider.”

A project review showed a new residence for the Queen’s representative within the approved \$5.3-million budget was no longer feasible due to increased construction costs and market conditions.

So far, the Alberta government has spent \$380,000 on design and consulting fees for this project. The additional cost of cancelling contracts with the consultant and construction management teams has not yet been determined. The remaining funds, anticipated to be in excess of \$4.5 million, will be redirected to other government priorities.

The Lieutenant Governor will continue to live in the temporary residence government purchased in 2005.

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Media enquiries may be directed to:

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To call toll free within Alberta dial 310-0000.

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Lieutenant Governor's residence project

- Approval was granted in April 2005 to proceed with the construction of a new Lieutenant Governor's residence at a total project cost of \$2.3 million on two lots owned by the Alberta government in Old Glenora in Edmonton.
- In July 2006, Barry Johns Architecture Ltd. of Edmonton was retained through a competitive selection process to provide architectural consulting services.
- In August 2006, the Government of Alberta approved an increase from \$2.3 million to \$5.3 million to build a residence appropriate for the Queen's representative and to allow for landscaping, furnishings and equipment.
- The previous official residence of the Lieutenant Governor was demolished in March 2004. The structure, which sat on three city lots, was in need of major repairs, was not accessible to the handicapped and did not meet appropriate security guidelines for visiting dignitaries. The Alberta government sold one of the lots in 2004 for \$824,000. The new official residence was earmarked for two lots at 58 St. George's Crescent.
- The Lieutenant Governor currently resides at 50 St. George's Crescent. The province purchased the red brick Georgian two-storey for \$2,069,800 and took possession in July 2005. Efforts to lease a suitable home were unsuccessful.
- In six other provinces, the Lieutenant Governor lives in a provincially owned historic residence. Ontario and Quebec do not provide a residence for the Lieutenant Governor. In Saskatchewan, the Lieutenant Governor resides in a condominium.

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