



News Release

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Government of Canada invests in Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta

Edmonton, Alberta — The Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA) received a boost toward its redevelopment efforts thanks to an investment of \$75,000 from the Government of Canada.

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and Minister of Western Economic Diversification, announced the funding today.

"The redevelopment of the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta will have a positive impact on the economic revitalization of Edmonton's downtown," said Minister Ambrose. "This investment of \$75,000 will contribute to the efforts of the museum to fulfill its vision of becoming a world-class attraction and a key part of Edmonton's growth and prosperity."

The redevelopment of UCAMA is a key initiative within the City of Edmonton's downtown economic revitalization strategy. The funding from Western Economic Diversification Canada will allow UCAMA to further develop its strategic business plan in order to position its redevelopment efforts within the downtown economic revitalization strategy. UCAMA will also continue its efforts to secure funding required to develop downtown Edmonton's historic Lodge Hotel into an accessible new facility for the museum and its collections.

"We recognize the important role the Ukrainian community has played in the growth and development of our nation," said the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Industry. "Prominent Ukrainian Canadians, such as former Governor General Ramon Hnatyshyn and Supreme Court Judge John Sopinka, understood the vital need to champion diversity and multiculturalism, which changed the fabric of the country forever."

Early Ukrainian immigration to Canada resulted in an arch of settlements in the parkland belt of the Prairie Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Today, the Ukrainian culture is showcased and celebrated throughout Western Canadian communities, from Winnipeg through to the Peace River Country, at numerous festivals and cultural events.

“The support from Western Economic Diversification Canada represents an important step towards our goal of creating a museum that strengthens the cultural and economic vibrancy of Edmonton’s downtown area,” said Michelle Tracy, President of the UCAMA. “This facility will become a lasting legacy that will allow Albertans and visitors alike to celebrate and learn more about the Ukrainian culture and its people.”

Founded in 1972, the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA) is a not-for-profit association devoted to the preservation of Ukrainian-Canadian history and culture in Alberta. The museum is one of the oldest institutional members of the Alberta Museums Association.

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A stronger West. A stronger Canada

Backgrounder

Western Economic Diversification Canada (WD)

- Western Economic Diversification Canada works in partnership with the provinces, industry associations and communities to stimulate and diversify Western Canada's economy, as well as to represent the interests of the West in national economic policy.
- WD is announcing an investment of \$75,000 to facilitate the redevelopment of the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA). The funding will be used by the museum to further develop its strategic business plan in order to position its redevelopment efforts within the downtown economic revitalization strategy.
- WD's investment, made through its Western Diversification Program (WDP), supports the department's priority on promoting a competitive and expanded business sector, and fostering community economic development.
- The underlying objective of the WDP is to create *a stronger West and a stronger Canada*. Several guiding principles are used to help assess how initiatives contribute to this objective, including:
 - increased economic activity that improves the viability, prosperity, and standard of living for individuals and communities across Western Canada.
 - increased economic research in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship and community economic development to provide a sound base for economic diversification in areas of importance to Western Canada.
- Other elements that are considered when determining the relative merit of proposals include: the measurable impact on the western Canadian economy, viability and sustainability, long-term benefits, and the participation of other stakeholders.