



# Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta

As one of the largest and most cohesive ethnic groups to settle in the Canadian West, Ukrainians have always maintained a strong sense of identity, community, and history. At the same time that this community held dear its past, it was also contributing significantly to the growth and development of the province.

In the mid 1960s, a member of the Ukrainian community, Hryhory Yopyk, became convinced of the need to establish a museum-archive to preserve the memorabilia of the Ukrainian pioneers that was beginning to be collected in greater and greater amounts by various people. Initially, his home became the depository for this growing collection, where Hryhory and his wife, Stefania, did their best to restore damaged items and catalogue the materials.

By the early 1970s, the Yopyks' home was too small to house this ever-growing collection. It was clear that if the project was to move forward, proper quarters needed to be secured. At this time, the decision to keep the collection in Edmonton was also made. On 26 November 1971, the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ukrainian settlement to Canada, Hryhory and Stefania Yopyk gathered a group of prominent Edmonton citizens to their home for a meeting. At this meeting, the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta was established, a board of directors was elected, and the Yopyks' collection was transferred to this newly established institution. A museum charter application was submitted to the provincial government the subsequent year and the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta was officially incorporated on 31 October 1972.

A successful search for a building to house the collection followed. Funds were raised to operate the museum and make needed alterations to the building. As a result, the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA) opened its doors to the public on 27 October 1974.

With the growth of the collection came a need for a new and larger building, so UCAMA purchased the former Lodge Hotel and Brighton Block on Jasper Avenue. The organization's goal is to rehabilitate and, where practical, restore portions of these two historical buildings in order to create a facility which will provide increased access and an improved experience for those who wish to utilize the UCAMA archives, library, and museum. The architectural design for the new museum received a Canadian Architect's Award of Excellence in 2006 and an Edmonton Urban Design Award in 2009.

The Edmonton Historical Board is very pleased to recognize the efforts of the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta for its devoted service to the history of our province and the Ukrainian community.