

Ukrainian museum on Jasper set to go after eight-year wait

BY GORDON KENT JOURNAL, EDMONTON JOURNAL NOVEMBER 17, 2011



City council's executive committee reaffirmed Wednesday a \$3-million contribution approved five years ago for work to convert a former Jasper Avenue rooming house into a home for
Photograph by: Shaughn Butts, The Journal, File, Edmonton Journal

The scaffolding that for years has blocked Edmonton's historic Lodge Hotel will finally come down after money was confirmed to convert it into a museum.

The Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta bought the property and adjoining Brighton Block, east of 97th Street on Jasper Avenue, in 2003 to hold its collection, but despite city support the group couldn't secure federal funding. A commitment for \$3.2 million eventually came in November 2010, matching a provincial grant.

City council's executive committee agreed Wednesday to reaffirm Edmonton's \$3-million contribution approved five years ago, which with private donations will allow the \$11-million first phase of construction to go ahead.

"Getting that storefront and facade back into use is pretty important to us," Coun. Ben Henderson said.

"Obviously, the concern is to make sure this thing happens fast, because it's not helping Jasper Avenue."

Work scheduled to start in December and be completed in 2013 will allow the museum to use the basement and first floor of the former rooming house, a report says.

These improvements will include removing the scaffolding, said Paul Teterenko, president of the non-profit organization.

The group hopes to receive a further \$6 million from the provincial and federal governments to complete renovations, which would let it move into the second and third floors.

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