

Kenney unaware of any March deadline for UCAMA project

Says Ottawa still working to get on the same page with the province

(UkrNews)—Federal Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism Minister Jason Kenny says he is not aware of any March 31 deadline the Government of Alberta made regarding an additional \$4 million for the new building of the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum of Alberta (UCAMA).

When asked about this during a telephone interview with Ukrainian News Editor Marco Levytsky, March 27, Kenny said he spoke with said Lindsay Blackett, Alberta Minister of Culture and Community Spirit earlier that week and Blackett didn't say anything about a deadline.

"We are working with the province. We have been making progress on this file. My understanding is that the province had expressed certain reservations, so this is something that we will try to iron out," he added.

Levytsky noted that on Jan. 19 Blackett sent a letter to Michelle Tracy, president of UCAMA in which he stated: "An additional \$4 million has been earmarked for you project through the Major Community Facilities Program (MCFP) provided your society can confirm the viability of your revised project by March 2009," he said.

Kenny replied he hadn't seen a copy of that letter and that UCAMA's initial application did not satisfy the requirements of the program so the federal government acted to help them in providing a more robust application

"My understanding, based on my conversations as early as this week is that we're still trying to get on the same page as the province," he said.

UCAMA's new building is estimated to cost \$24.1 million for which the provincial government has previously pledged \$3 million, with the City of Edmonton promising \$3 million of its own.

Major private contributions include \$750,000 from the Chwyl Family, \$200,000 from the Koziak Family Foundation, \$100,000 from Servus Credit Union and \$100,000 worth of his prints for sale from artist Peter Shostak.

UCAMA has applied for an \$8 million grant to the Building Canada program. On Dec. 6, 2008, Kenny told the audience at a Ukrainian Canadian Congress banquet held in Edmonton: "We will have good news in respect to that project in the very near future."

In his Jan. 19 letter, Blackett added:

"The Government of Alberta is currently working with the Federal Government regarding the Building Canada Fund. These negotiations are ongoing to ensure the best interests of Alberta taxpayers are reflected in the agreements. I suggest you keep in touch with your contacts in the Federal Government regarding your funding request, and keep MCFP administration informed of any developments in this regard,"