

Appendix A Fort Saskatchewan Heritage Centre Public Vote (Plebiscite) Project Information

Your opinion counts, get out and vote!

City Council is asking residents (eligible voters) if they support the construction and on-going operation of the Fort Saskatchewan Heritage Centre.

1. What is the Heritage Centre?



- The Heritage Centre building is approximately 15,000 sq. ft. in size and is designed to showcase Fort Saskatchewan's unique history.
- The Heritage Centre's design and location will support special events in the downtown parks area with access to program rooms, a small kitchen and washrooms.
- The Heritage Centre design includes:
 - a reception area and gift shop
 - exhibit gallery
 - artifact storage and preparation area
 - archives space
 - program and multi-purpose rooms
 - office space
 - a Gallery with permanent and temporary exhibits on serving justice, jail incarceration, capital punishment, trade and exploration, the Métis and early first nations, pioneer and settlement, railway, businesses and industry.

2. Where will it be located?

- The Heritage Centre is located downtown in Legacy Park. A road improvement will connect 100 Street, the Heritage Centre, Legacy Park and the Downtown Commercial area.



3. What is the cost of construction?

- The total construction cost of the new Heritage Centre project is budgeted at \$7,957,000. This includes the building, furniture and equipment, a basic exhibit, site and road development, landscaping, parking, contingencies and inflation on building design and construction.
- The project is fully financed through a portion of our provincial grant allocation. If the provincial grant is not used for the Heritage Centre, it can be reallocated to another Fort Saskatchewan capital project.
- A \$500,000 fundraising goal has been set to improve the interactive experience between the exhibit and visitors. The fund raising program will provide an opportunity for individuals, groups, businesses and industries to contribute to this project.

4. What is the annual net operating cost and what does it include?

- The total net operating cost (after revenue) of the Heritage Centre for utilities, maintenance, and room rental and interpretative services for basic operation is \$310,000 per year.

5. What are the main benefits to our community?

- **The Heritage Centre creates a new tourist attraction downtown.** Fort Saskatchewan has a unique history in the Capital Region. The Heritage Centre is an opportunity to showcase Fort Saskatchewan's history while providing access to the river valley and downtown, creating a unique tourist attraction.
- **Fort Saskatchewan's rich history will be preserved and displayed with pride.** The Heritage Centre will provide proper maintenance, storage and display areas for museum artifacts and historical archives. Interactive exhibits will showcase themes and topics capturing Fort Saskatchewan's rich history.
- **Additional parking stalls for the downtown.** Eighty-six new parking stalls will service the activities of the Heritage Centre, the new NWMP Fort site and events in the downtown. A new access road will accommodate large vehicles such as buses and RVs.
- **More program opportunities for schools and the public.** The Heritage Centre provides an opportunity to enhance school programs currently offered in the Fort Heritage Precinct site. It also creates a new opportunity for new public programs and integration of new technology for onsite interpretation.
- **The Heritage Centre will support special events at Legacy Park.** Program rooms and washrooms will be easily accessible to the public during events and festivals.

6. When and where do I vote?

- To be announced.