

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**City of Calgary commits \$12 million to Glenbow Reimagined  
Funding will support the delivery of key museum programming and  
amenities for the community**

**CALGARY – June 6, 2023** – Today, City Council approved \$12 million of infrastructure funding to further support Glenbow’s capital revitalization project. Once re-opened, the museum will be an accessible, inclusive space for the community and an anchor for Calgary’s burgeoning cultural district.

“Since this project first began the response from our community has been overwhelming,” says Nicholas R. Bell, Glenbow’s President & CEO. “Calgarians are clamouring for a benchmark-setting art museum in their downtown. We are thankful to The City for enabling us to deliver more impact and value to this community for generations to come.”

City funding will help offset escalation and inflation costs for construction of the base building; it will also support the museum’s exhibitions, development of a rooftop terrace overlooking Stephen Avenue, and a new theatre facing 9 Avenue SE.

“As we weather the most challenging economy in decades, similar cultural infrastructure projects in Canada are experiencing runaway costs,” says Bell. “However, due to expert management by our Calgary-based firms, we have been able to keep our costs well under control – within 10% of the 2018 project budget.”

By renovating its existing building and by leveraging local firms and materials, Glenbow will deliver this project to the community at a per-square-foot-cost up to 70% lower than comparable new museum construction.

The \$12 million in Cultural Municipal Sustainability Initiative funding was earmarked for previously identified projects in Calgary that are no longer proceeding as planned – one has been cancelled and the other is on pause. Should these funds not be spent by December 31, 2023, The City would have to forfeit the funds back to the Province.

“The City’s continued investment in key cultural infrastructure like Glenbow is a central pillar of our Downtown Revitalization Strategy,” says Mayor Jyoti Gondek. “Once re-opened, Glenbow will offer a free, world class experience for Calgarians and visitors alike. The City’s investment recognizes arts and culture as a powerful driver for our economy and essential to understanding our stories as a community.”

*Glenbow Reimagined* is being funded by all levels of government – including \$40 million from the Government of Alberta, \$40 million from the Government of Canada, and with today’s commitment, \$37 million from The City of Calgary. The project has received significant philanthropic support from the community, including \$35 million from the Shaw Family Foundation to make Glenbow the first major museum in Canada to offer free general admission to everyone, forever. Glenbow continues to raise private funds from across Canada to help complete its renovated home, the JR Shaw Centre for Arts & Culture, and its future program.

# Glenbow

- 30 -

## **About Glenbow**

Founded in 1966 as an independent, non-profit museum, archive and gallery, Glenbow cares for an extraordinary collection of more than 250,000 works of art and historical objects – from Canada and cultures around the world – on behalf of the people of Alberta. *Glenbow Reimagined* is a project to renovate the museum's 50-year-old building and provide a vibrant, thriving cultural resource in the heart of Calgary, committed to expanding the accessibility and impact of arts and culture. Glenbow's main building is closed as it renovates to become the JR Shaw Centre for Arts & Culture. While renovations are underway, visitors can experience exhibitions at the museum's satellite gallery, Glenbow at The Edison.

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### **Glenbow**

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