

April 1, 2015

FAQ, McDougall Church building/Government of Alberta announcement

Q. Who decides the future of McDougall Church?

A. The congregation will be asked to affirm the decision of McDougall United Church's Council and Trustees to accept the province's intent to designate the building as a provincial heritage resource. There is a 60 day comment and review period before heritage designation is finalized. During this time the McDougall United Church council, trustees, congregation along with the Presbytery, the City of Edmonton, the province, the Friends of McDougall and the community at large will work together to answer questions and to address outstanding concerns about the impact of heritage designation and the accompanying funds.

Q. I thought it was going to cost \$18-25M, is \$1.25M enough?

A. \$1.25M is a very generous contribution. The province and the city agree it will be enough to complete the immediate repairs needed, and the province has significant experience in heritage building preservation and restoration. The original \$18-25M amount includes the cost to restore and renovate the building to provide the city with a 21st century performing arts facility. Experts say it will cost far less to restore and maintain the building so it can continue to be used as it is now, as a vintage century-old performing arts and culture and community centre.

Q. But will more funds be needed?

A. Indeed, more funds will be needed. It will take the support and cooperation of all the buildings users, stakeholders and the community at large, including the business and philanthropic community, as well as the people of Edmonton and Alberta, to make it work. There has been a groundswell of support from Edmonton and from around the province to save McDougall. The building's historic value as well as its ongoing value to the community is recognized. People want to save this building.

Q. Where will the money come from?

A. The \$1.25M from the city and province should kickstart other contributions and towards the end goal: to have a performing arts and community building that serves to its fullest potential. During the 60-day before comment period before designation, all parties involved will work together on a plan to achieve this goal.

Q. Will the McDougall United Church congregation remain in the building?

A. Over the last several decades McDougall United Church has worked on its vision for the future of the building, recognizing it is the steward of a building with significant heritage, cultural and community value to Edmonton and Alberta. Hundreds of cultural and community events take place each year at McDougall. The congregation wants the building to remain available in this way, with McDougall United Church remaining in the building, contributing as one of many users or tenants.