

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WARD A Cheryl Johner  
WARD B Michelle Draper  
WARD C Orville Chubb  
WARD D Ray Martin  
WARD E Ken Gibson  
WARD F Michael Janz  
WARD G Bridget Stirling  
WARD H Nathan Ip  
WARD I Sherry Adams

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Darrel Robertson

Centre for Education  
1 Kingsway NW  
Edmonton AB T5H 4G9

T 780-429-8000  
F 780-429-8318  
E info@epsb.ca

March 22, 2016

Mayor Don Iveson  
City of Edmonton  
200, City Hall  
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square NW  
Edmonton, AB T5J 2R7

Dear Mayor Iveson:

I am writing to bring to your attention the critical need for emergent funds to complete structural repairs to the roof at historic McKay Avenue School. The structural integrity of the roof and ability to prevent further damage is a significant concern. Historic McKay Avenue School is the oldest brick school in the Province. Constructed as an eight room school in 1904 with a four room addition in 1912, the building is now in its second career as the Edmonton Public Schools Archives and Museum (Attachment I). The iconic building was designated a Provincial historic resource in 1976 and Municipal historic resource in 2015. The Alberta Register of Historic Places states, "The heritage value of McKay Avenue School lies in its association with the inaugural sessions of the Alberta Legislative Assembly, its connection to early educational institutions in Edmonton, and its stately Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style."

In the spring of 2015, Edmonton Public Schools initiated a lifecycle replacement of the 30 year old cedar shake roof. During the removal of the cedar shakes and dormer brickwork, it was discovered that the original construction methods do not meet current standards and the timber supports were missing or rotten. Further investigations by ACI Architecture Inc. and Building Science Engineering Ltd. revealed significant structural issues.

To complete the original lifecycle replacement of the roof, Edmonton Public Schools secured funds for the original roofing budget of \$960,000 through grants and fundraising. It is estimated we will require an additional \$1.34 million to address the structural issues associated with the six dormers and timber supports, to complete hazmat remediation, and for additional architectural and engineering costs.

In addition to fundraising and applying for grants, the Board of Trustees has identified a parcel of land (Lot 34) outside the school site fenced-area and is in the process of declaring it surplus to District need in order to sell it at market value. Attached is an aerial photo identifying the potential lot for sale (Attachment II). The funds realized from this sale will be applied to the capital improvements of historic McKay Avenue School. The sale process will require time to finalize and will only represent a small percentage of the total funds required. Current market conditions may limit the District's ability to realize these additional funds.

Historic McKay Avenue School is a rich Provincial and Municipal treasure that must be retained for all Albertans. The District's ability to ensure the building's structural integrity and the continuation of safe daily operations is dependent on receiving emergent funding. In that regard, the Edmonton Public School Board would greatly appreciate an opportunity to meet with yourself or City staff to provide additional detail and discuss the immediate need for support. Should additional funds not be secured by June 30, 2016, the project will need to be suspended and the ability of the District to safely operate the building will need to be assessed.

I invite you to tour both historic McKay Avenue School and the 1881 Schoolhouse to take part in a meaningful experience re-living how the Province of Alberta and Edmonton Public School District were formed.

Thank you for your considering this emergent request.

Yours truly,



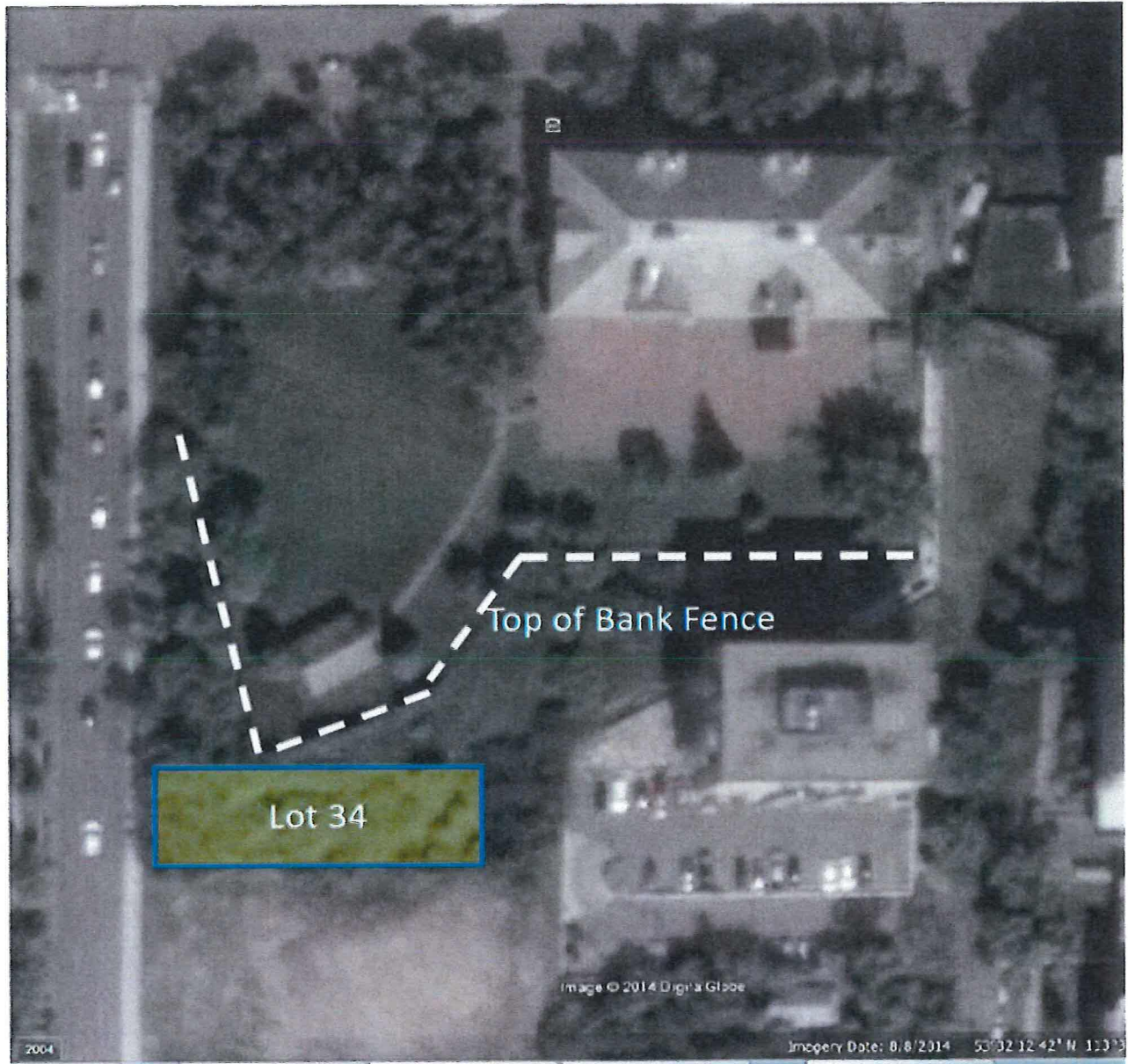
Michael Janz  
Board Chair

CD:kk

c: ✓ Robert Geldart, Senior Heritage Planner, City of Edmonton

Attachment I – Edmonton Public Schools Archives and Museum Brochure  
Attachment II – Aerial Photo of School Site (Lot 34)

# McKay Avenue School Archives and Museum Lot 34





## Our facility...

We provide a unique setting for many local community organizations and businesses by offering a variety of room rentals.

### Alberta Room

Board-room style with casual seating

### Reading Room

Board-room style with casual seating

### Inspectors' Room

Round-table OR theatre style  
Wall-mounted multimedia system

### North-West Territories Room

Combination of board-room and round-table styles with casual seating

### Third Floor Assembly Hall

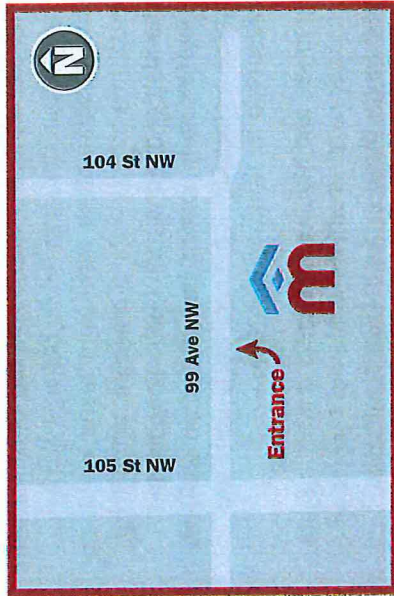
Round-table OR theatre style

### Theatre Room

Theatre seats with a small stage or presentation space

WiFi capability throughout

**Open Monday through Friday  
8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



10425 99 Ave NW  
Edmonton AB T5K 0E5  
T 780-422-1970  
F 780-426-0192  
E [archivesmuseum@epsb.ca](mailto:archivesmuseum@epsb.ca)  
[archivesmuseum.epsb.ca](http://archivesmuseum.epsb.ca)

[@EPSB\\_McKay](https://twitter.com/EPSB_McKay)  
[#yegmckayschool](https://www.instagram.com/epsb_mckayschool)  
[mckayvenue\\_school](https://www.facebook.com/mckayvenue_school)  
McKay Avenue

**PRESERVE OUR PAST TODAY FOR THE FUTURE**

Edmonton Public Schools is helping to shape the future in every one of our classrooms. We're focused on ensuring each student learns to their full potential and develops the ability, passion and imagination to pursue their dreams and contribute to their community.

**Historic  
McKay Avenue  
School**

**FREE ADMISSION**  
(Donations Appreciated)

## What we do...

- Curriculum-based student programming
- Conserve two restored historic sites
- Public museum
- Archives for researchers
- Preserve historical documents and objects relating to Edmonton Public Schools
- Facility rentals



## Who we are...

Housed within the oldest standing brick school in Alberta, Edmonton Public Schools Archives and Museum offers curriculum-based, hands-on programs for students, a **museum** highlighting the history of Edmonton Public Schools and Alberta's early political history and an **archives** where historically significant documents are preserved for future generations.

Archives and Museum presents a living history experience for **students** within our District as well as for those in out-of-District schools. The public is welcome to tour our museum and to **rent space** for meetings and special events.



## Our programs...

### GRADE 4: SOCIAL STUDIES, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

#### 1881 Schoolhouse

Students experience schoolhouse lessons of the 1880s in Edmonton's first public school (1881). The lessons and stories provide multiple perspectives of Alberta's heritage.

### GRADES 2 & 4: SOCIAL STUDIES, ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

#### Grandma's Place: A Visit to Grandma and Grandpa's in the Thrifty '30s

A hands-on experience involving activities and 'chores' based on those of the early 1900s. Students gather information about life in the '30s from multiple perspectives to develop an appreciation and respect for the contributions of Alberta citizens of the past.

### GRADE 6: SOCIAL STUDIES

#### Mr. Puffer Goes to Parliament:

#### A Study of Government in Perspective

An interactive experience that compares the issues, roles and responsibilities that existed for the first Provincial Parliament (1906) with those that exist for government in Alberta today. Students participate in a mock provincial election and role-play early Alberta historical figures.