

May 13, 2005

## **Province to build official residence for Lieutenant Governor**

### **LG to live in recently purchased home until new residence is completed**

Edmonton... Alberta's Lieutenant Governor will move into a new home this summer while the government begins work on a new official residence for the Queen's representative to the province.

The Alberta government is moving ahead with plans to build the new official residence on the site of the previous one at 58 St. George's Crescent in Edmonton's Old Glenora area.

"We will build an official residence that reflects the importance of the office of the Lieutenant Governor while being prudent as always with taxpayers' money," said Premier Ralph Klein. "It will be everything the old one was not-stately, secure, sound and accessible-in short, a residence fit for a representative of the Queen."

In the meantime, the Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Norman L. Kwong, will reside just down the street at 50 St. George's Crescent. Government purchased the red brick Georgian two-storey for \$2,069,800 and will take possession in July 2005. Efforts to lease a suitable home were unsuccessful.

"This home will serve as a suitable temporary residence that will enable His Honour to live in Edmonton on a full-time basis," said Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation Dr. Lyle Oberg. "It will be sold and the funds recouped once the official residence is completed."

The previous official residence of the Lieutenant Governor was demolished in March 2004. The structure, which sat on three city lots, was in need of major repair, was not barrier-free and did not meet the international security guidelines for visiting dignitaries. Government sold one of the lots in 2004 for \$824,000. The new official residence will be built on the remaining two lots.

The new home will take about a year and a half to design and construct. Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation will oversee the project and is developing a list of design and functional criteria for the new house, such as size, budget, number of rooms, entertaining and security requirements, and neighbourhood character.

- 30 -

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# Backgrounder

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## About the construction of a new residence

- The new residence will be about 4,000 square feet of living space.
- Planning for the new residence will commence immediately to determine the project scope, budget and schedule.
- The home will be built on the site of the former Lieutenant Governor's residence at 58 St. George's Crescent in Old Glenora in Edmonton.
- Estimated time to design and build the new home: one and a half years.
- Details of the bid process are still being finalized, but qualified firms will have the opportunity to compete for the job.
- The size and appearance of the new residence will be in keeping with other homes on the street.

## About the former residence

- The former Lieutenant Governor's residence was a 4,036 square-foot bungalow, built in the late 1950s. The house sat on three 62 ft x 140 ft lots.
- The residence was last occupied in 1999, because the previous Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Lois E. Hole, chose to remain in her own home in St. Albert and used Government House for official functions.
- The residence was demolished in March 2004 after it was determined the structure required extensive maintenance upgrades and did not meet the functional or security requirements of a Lieutenant Governor. The government sold one of the lots in 2004 for \$824,000. The other two were retained for development of a new residence.

## About Lieutenant Governors' Residences

- In six other provinces, the Lieutenant Governor lives in a provincially owned historic residence.
- Ontario and Quebec do not provide a residence for the Lieutenant Governor, and the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan resides in a condominium.
- No Lieutenant Governor has resided at Government House since the late 1930s.

## About the decision to purchase a temporary residence

- Several options for providing a residence for the new Lieutenant Governor have been investigated, including leasing or purchasing a house or condominium.
- There are no suitable condominiums or houses currently available for lease in Edmonton.

## About the temporary residence

- Located at 50 St. George's Crescent in Edmonton
- Approximately 4,500 square feet
- Two-storey, red brick, Georgian-style
- Four bedrooms

- Built in 1999, in excellent condition
  - Suitable for entertaining, view of the river valley
  - Purchase price: \$2,069,800
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