

December 10, 2012

Museum to break ground in April

It's a go. After 10 years of hard work, the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum is breaking ground this spring.

The project's plans are to tender in January 2013, break ground in April 2013 and open the museum in June 2014.

The County of Grande Prairie pledged a further \$3 million to the project on Dec. 6 – bringing the museum's capital fund to \$19,478,000 – and gave approval for the museum to go to tender in January.

This came after the City of Grande Prairie voted to fund the construction of the museum for a further \$2 million on November 23 and the MD of Greenview recently pledged to increase their contribution by \$150,000.

It brings the County's total contribution to the project's capital fund to \$7,096,000, the City's to \$3,500,000 and the MD's to \$250,000.

"The County of Grande Prairie has shown strong support and leadership for this project, and we're very proud to see this world-class educational, research and tourism facility come to life," said County Reeve Leanne Beaupre. "The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum will be a tremendous economic boost to the Peace Region, drawing visitors from across the globe who will be able to step back into our prehistoric history."

"We recognize that the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum will have a significant tourism and economic development impact on our community once it's complete," said Grande Prairie Mayor Bill Given. "The city's total funding of \$3.5 million, or about 10% of the cost, underlines just how strong our commitment to this regional project is. We look forward to seeing construction on the museum proceeding."

"Council for the MD of Greenview are very proud to be a partner in the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative," said Janis Simpkins, Reeve of the MD of Greenview. "Strong community partnerships and collaboration such as this are necessary for the continued growth and success of our region. We are very appreciative and thankful to all those who have had the foresight and vision to begin this incredible journey and believe the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum will be a remarkable contribution to our region and our communities."

It's a major milestone in the museum's journey – the project has been underway for 10 years, with a full-time staff of five working on it for the last 2.5 years. "I'm absolutely overjoyed," said project executive director Brian Brake. "It's incredibly gratifying to see these regional players step up to make this museum a reality."

The museum's construction management firm, PCL Construction and architects, Teeple Architects, are already working on the tendering process. The building is fully designed.

The project has a remaining \$7 million to raise for the museum and several initiatives are underway to help achieve this. A naming sponsorship program has been launched, giving donors the chance to have their name attached to a variety of museum components, including dinosaur skeletons, classrooms and the theatre. A crowd-funding campaign is also underway at www.indiegogo.com/curriemuseum with over \$25,000 already raised.

"We still have work to do but the fact remains that we are now cleared to move to construct the facility," said Brake. "It's an exciting day for everyone."



The province of Alberta has also pledged \$10 million to the project.

“While we already have a strong industry-based economy, the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum will play an important role in increasing Grande Prairie’s cultural profile and help boost tourism in the region,” said Wayne Drysdale, MLA for Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

The museum, named after Canada’s preeminent palaeontologist, will be a world-class facility of 41,000 square feet and include a Dinosaur Gallery of large skeletons, an Oil and Gas wing, a theatre, two SMART-technology classrooms and a palaeontology lab where visitors can observe scientists at work. It will be located in the town of Wembley, just off Highway 43, which connects with the Alaskan Highway.

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About the Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum and the Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative

The Philip J. Currie Dinosaur Museum, scheduled for completion June 2014, will be a 41,000 sq. foot, world-class facility highlighting the rich fossil resources of Northern Alberta. Named for Dr. Philip Currie, Canada’s preeminent palaeontologist, the museum, in Wembley AB, will serve as a hub of education and science in the area. The Pipestone Creek Dinosaur Initiative is the omnibus term for the project team tasked with the realization of the museum.

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