

## **The Flair Foundation donates \$2 million to the National Music Centre**

*(Calgary, AB — January 21, 2015)* The National Music Centre (NMC) has received a gift of \$2 million from The Flair Foundation for the NMC building project.

The gift will be applied to the new lobby of the King Eddy Hotel, which is currently undergoing an extensive restoration. When the new NMC opens in 2016, the King Eddy will return as a restaurant and bar, and live music venue in Calgary's East Village.

The Flair Foundation is making the gift to recognize David McClement, a long-time supporter of NMC, who has a keen interest in music and also played the saxophone.

“David has been a supporter of NMC since the very beginning,” said Andrew Mosker, President and CEO of NMC. “His many contributions will always be remembered and treasured. The new NMC is a total community project, and a tribute to the generous individuals who share an enthusiasm for our collection, and dynamic public and education programs.”

Construction on the new NMC began in early 2013 and remains on schedule to open in Spring 2016. The project will cost \$168 million, and NMC has raised over \$110 million to construct the 160,000 square foot cultural space, referred to as the home for music in Canada. With interactive education programming, artist incubation, engaging exhibitions and performances, NMC will become a hub for music in Calgary's East Village.

### **About the King Eddy Hotel**

Built in 1905, the infamous hotel has a colourful history that includes bootlegging and being the first desegregated establishment in Calgary. In the 1980s, the hotel became Calgary's Home of the Blues, seeing some of the major blues artists of the last 50 years coming through its doors. Famous visitors included Pinetop Perkins, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells and Bryan Adams. Due to severe structural issues, the building was condemned in 2004. NMC acquired the building from the Calgary Municipal Land Corporation, and in 2013 began the process of its restoration.

### **About the National Music Centre**

The National Music Centre is the home for music in Canada and its mission is to amplify the love, sharing, and understanding of music. The new National Music Centre will be a 160,000 square-foot,

architecturally stunning destination in the heart of Calgary's East Village, and an international hub for music and technology. It will resonate with expanded programming including education, performance, artist incubation, and exhibitions. The new building will open in the spring of 2016. Learn more at [nmc.ca](http://nmc.ca)

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