

# City Winnipeg Hall

510 Main Street



City Hall, also known as the Civic Centre, is made up of two buildings separated by a courtyard. The Civic Centre was designed by the Winnipeg firm of Green Blankstein Russell Associates and constructed by G.A. Baert Construction Limited. It was completed in 1964 and formally opened in October of that year.

## Council Building

The Council Building contains the Council Chamber; a Public Gallery that can seat 250 people; Committee Rooms; the Office of the Mayor; Councillor offices; the City Clerk's Department; the Creative Services Branch of the Internal Services Department, and the Emergency Operations office.



## Administration Building

The Council Building and the Administration Building are joined by an underground corridor. The Administration building is seven stories high and holds the offices of the Chief Administrative Officer; the Corporate Services and Corporate Finance Departments; as well as conference rooms and a public restaurant.



Both buildings are faced with Manitoba Tyndall Stone (limestone) and Quebec Granite. They feature bronze frame, screen and hardware elements. Interior wall finishes in public areas are limestone, granite, brick and plaster. The inner courtyard was refurbished in 2003.

## DEDICATION

*This building is dedicated to the service of the people of the City of Winnipeg. It honours those who founded this community and all who contributed to its growth and development. It also symbolizes the faith of Winnipeg's Council and all who reside here in free institutions in Canada and in the future of this city.*

**1964**

*Inscribed into the west wall in the Council Building lobby and dedicated during the Official Opening Ceremony for the New City Hall, October 5, 1964.*

# Winnipeg City Hall

## History



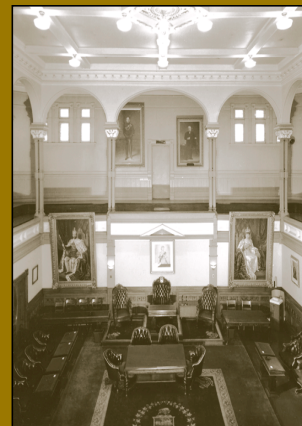
The City of Winnipeg was incorporated in 1873. Since then, it has been administered by an elected council, under the leadership of the mayor. One of the priorities of Winnipeg's first Council was to secure a permanent address for the administration of civic affairs. Construction of Winnipeg's first city hall, located on Main Street between William and Market Avenues, began in August of 1875 with the laying of the cornerstone. Completed in 1876, the building suffered from chronic structural problems. It was finally judged unsound and demolished in 1883.



Winnipeg's second city hall, described by some as a "Victorian fantasy", was designed by Barber and Barber and built by Robert Dewar. Completed in 1886, the so-called "Gingerbread" city hall symbolized Winnipeg's coming of age at the end of the nineteenth century.

During the early years of the twentieth century, Winnipeg grew quickly and plans for a new city hall were soon under discussion. Were it not for the outbreak of World War I, City Hall would likely have been replaced by the winning entry in a design competition held by the City in 1912. Instead, the grand old building stood for another fifty years.

Shortly after WWII, a committee was struck to study the issue of civic accommodation and growing concerns over the structural integrity of the old city hall. After much public debate, Winnipeg's second city hall was torn down in 1962 to make way for construction of the present civic centre.



## Site & Architecture



When planning for Winnipeg's third city hall, Council considered a number of sites in and around the downtown core, but decided to remain in the city's traditional central business district adjacent to Old Market Square.

The **present City Hall** is the result of a design competition held in the early 1960's. The site plan originally called for construction of two buildings – one for Council, and one for Administration – but the scope of the project was enlarged to include a Public Safety Building and Civic Parkade. The winning design was representative of post war trends in both architecture and urban planning – a functional blend of modernist architecture and the civic centre concept.

