



NEWS RELEASE: THE WIIKWEMKOONG UNCEDED TERRITORY SECURES LANDMARK REAL ESTATE ACQUISITION IN EDMONTON'S ICE DISTRICT

JANUARY 23, 2026 (Edmonton, AB): The Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory of **Manitoulin Island, Ontario** has completed a landmark commercial real estate acquisition in Edmonton's ICE District, strengthening the Nation's long-term economic prosperity and marking one of the most significant Indigenous-led investments in Alberta in recent years.

The transaction includes the purchase of **Connect Centre within ICE District**, a flagship mixed-use commercial property located in the heart of downtown Edmonton adjacent to Rogers Place and the ICE District Plaza. Connect Centre spans an entire city block and plays a central role in the district's retail, hospitality, and entertainment ecosystem.

This prime retail asset offers over 113,000 square feet of premier grocery-anchored retail space, and stratified air rights that are subject to zoning allowing a wide range of uses. Parking is well accommodated with 250 allocated stalls and access to licensed stalls to meet current and future retail leasing obligations.

Many partners came together to provide strategic advisory and transaction support throughout the acquisition process, working alongside the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory's leadership, legal teams, and commercial partners to help bring the deal to completion.

"This milestone investment reflects our Nation's commitment to building long-term economic security for our members and generations to come," says Ogimaa Tim Ominika, Chief of the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory. "ICE District is a world-class destination, and this acquisition strengthens our economic portfolio while creating new opportunities for our future. We are grateful to all partners who helped make this historic moment possible."

The acquisition positions the Nation as a major Indigenous participant in Alberta's real estate sector, reinforcing a growing national trend of Indigenous governments diversifying revenue streams, entering new markets, and advancing interprovincial economic partnerships.

“This is an extraordinary achievement and a powerful example of Indigenous economic ambition,” says Andrew Knack, Mayor of Edmonton. “This is a strong signal of the amazing things that will continue to happen as Edmonton’s downtown continues to evolve and be re-shaped for decades to come for the better.”

“This is a historic acquisition for the Indigenous community and the City of Edmonton,” says Darren Durstling, President of Integro Investments. “I’ve spent my career building better communities through high-quality developments, but this investment is truly unique. An acquisition like this drives economic development for Edmonton, Alberta, Indigenous leadership, and is a strong indicator of the bright future ahead.”

Darren Durstling will be managing and developing this project. Integro Investments is the joint-venture partner assisting in this acquisition. Mr. Durstling will continue to provide his expertise in on this project and will soundly execute on the immediate development of a residential tower.

ICE District continues to attract major institutional investors due to its density of entertainment and hospitality amenities, residential growth, commercial activity, and direct integration with Edmonton’s downtown core. The newly acquired asset will be incorporated into the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory’s growing portfolio, supporting expanded economic development, investment capacity, and community benefit initiatives.

About the Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory

The Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory is located on Manitoulin Island, Ontario, and is the largest unceded First Nation in Canada. The Nation continues to advance economic development initiatives that strengthen long-term prosperity and create lasting benefits for its citizens.

Media: Please email c.hogan@albertacounsel.com if you have any questions or require additional information.



[Please click here to see a video tour of the Connect Centre. If you choose to, your media outlet can use a segment of this video for your broadcast. Please ascribe video credit to: Lemon Agency.](#)