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Act to Establish Canadian Museum for Human Rights Receives Royal Assent

OTTAWA, March 13, 2008 - The Canadian Museum for Human Rights moved one step closer to becoming Canada's newest national museum today when the *Act to Amend the Museums Act* received Royal Assent.

"This legislation will establish the Canadian Museum for Human Rights as a national museum," said the Honourable Josée Verner, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Status of Women and Official Languages. "The museum will highlight Canada's strong commitment to human rights, the rule of law, freedom, and democracy.

The Canadian Museum of Human Rights is the first national museum to be created since 1967 and the first to be located outside of the National Capital Region. The museum will be built with support from other levels of government, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations.

Bill C-42, tabled in Parliament in February, amends the *Museums Act*, which grants Crown corporation status to Canada's existing national museums (the National Gallery of Canada, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Canadian Museum of Nature and the Canada Science and Technology Museum).

The new museum will explore the theme of human rights to enhance public understanding, promote respect for others, and encourage reflection and dialogue.

In April 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the project would

proceed with \$165 million in contributions from the Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg, Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, and the Forks Renewal Corporation and \$100 million from the Government of Canada to build the new museum. The federal government will also provide ongoing operating support.

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