

Museum scores big

Celebrates \$130 million in private donations

ROSS ROMANIUK
Winnipeg Sun

What a way to tie the Canadian Museum for Human Rights to the Winnipeg Jets' regular season take-off — with a hockey net to celebrate \$130 million in private-sector contributions.

The national museum project's arm's-length fundraising organization announced on Friday another total of \$5 million in private-sector or individual donations from several contributors toward its construction, which is taking shape with its spire increasingly visible on the downtown skyline.

Stories

"There are a lot of groups whose stories are going to be told at this museum," Gail Asper, national campaign chairwoman for the Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, said at a news conference at a downtown hotel.

"For example, the East Indian community, the Chinese community — we're starting to be able to have events just tailored for them, to talk to them about what they're going

to see at the museum. And we expect to be raising money also from those groups, too. That's really starting to be in the works this fall."

Tying the announcement to this Sunday's first Jets regular season NHL game in 15 years, the Friends unveiled a hockey net, complete with a cardboard cut-out goaltender and "\$130M" printed on the front, while a group of students from Selkirk Junior High School played Bachman-Turner Overdrive's 1970s hit song *Takin' Care of Business* on electric and bass guitars.

Their school in Selkirk has raised more than \$32,000 for the museum through an auction of student-designed guitars signed by celebrities.

"It's great to see the youth in Manitoba getting energized and excited about this project. That's something we can all take away as something pretty inspiring," said museum construction manager Todd Craigen of PCL Constructors Canada Inc., which has increased its donation to more than \$1 million.

The Friends described the museum as a "game-changer" for the city and Manitoba, as



BRIAN DONOGH/WINNIPEG SUN

Gail Asper says the successful fundraising drive will ensure a lot of groups have their stories told.



REACHING THEIR GOAL

The CMHR is close to attaining \$150 million in private donations.

every minute of it, while it lasts."

The project has received about \$170,000 in donations made in the memory of Babs Asper, Gail's mother and wife of museum founder Israel Asper, since her death this past summer.

"We're going to have a lot of fun," Asper said. "And we're going to enjoy

ross.romaniuk@summedia.ca

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