

January 10, 2012

Colin Craig
Prairie Director
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Winnipeg, MB R3J 3X7

Canadian Museum **FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**
Musée canadien **POUR LES DROITS DE LA PERSONNE**



Dear Mr. Craig,

I am writing in response to statements attributed to you in a recent Winnipeg Sun article “Stop the hide and seek” (January 8, 2012).

As previously reported by the CMHR, the overall project budget excluded the costs associated with the completion of the theatre and temporary gallery spaces. I have included a recent example from our 2011-2012 to 2015-2016 Corporate Plan Summary, released in September 2011, for your reference.

Prepared annually, the Corporate Plan Summary is one of many tools used by the CMHR to keep our government partners and taxpayers apprised of the Museum’s operational and financial plans. Once tabled in the House of Commons, the Corporate Plan Summary is made available to the public. All Corporate Plan Summaries, past and current, can be found on the CMHR website.

(<http://humanrightsmuseum.ca/about-museum/corporate-governance/corporate-reports/corporate-plans>)

I’d like to call your attention to page 18 of the Corporate Plan Summary, where it states: “Preliminary estimates for the project based on a 2006 schematic building design were \$265 million. In 2008, at the end of the design development phase, when there was sufficient detail to obtain accurate costing, the cost of the building and exhibitions, including adjustments required to qualify the building for a LEED silver designation and to reduce long-term operating costs, **excluding completing the theatre and temporary gallery space**, [emphasis added] was determined to be \$310 million.”


Additionally, please take note of a Winnipeg Free Press article from December 22, 2011, “Museum’s new cash strategy”. Under the heading ‘Latest budget details’ it reads: “This revised project budget still does not allocate funds to complete the museum’s temporary gallery and theatre. These elements were not included in the \$310-million budget, either.”

The information shared here was shared with the Winnipeg Sun as early as December 23, 2011. It along with the Winnipeg Free Press article reflects efforts by the Museum to be transparent and accountable to the public and our government partners. Assertions by the Winnipeg Sun that the publication was the first to report on this matter are simply untrue.

To suggest that the CMHR has been “dribbling out the information” is irresponsible, unfounded, and a disservice to taxpayers, the public, and the Sun’s readership.

Should you have any further questions about the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, please feel free to contact me at 204.289.2000 or visit the Museum’s website at www.humanrightsmuseum.ca.

Regards,


Angela J. Cassie
Director, Communication and External Relations