

**FOR RELEASE**  
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**CENTREVENTURE ANNOUNCES SALE OF  
HISTORIC MET THEATRE  
TO CANAD INNS**

***Hotelier Plans to Re-Open Downtown Landmark as an  
Entertainment Destination***

**WINNIPEG** – CentreVenture Development Corporation today announced the sale of the historic Metropolitan Theatre – or The Met as it is commonly known – to Canad Inns, Winnipeg’s well-respected hospitality and entertainment company.

In response to CentreVenture’s request for proposals for the purchase and development of The Met, Canad Inns has committed to transform the grand, yet long-vacant, heritage building into an entertainment showpiece. Canad Inns Entertainment Centre at The Metropolitan Theatre, located at 281 Donald just south of Portage Avenue across from The MTS Centre, is expected to draw Winnipeggers and visitors alike to the downtown venue.

“CentreVenture is confident that Canad Inns’ final redevelopment plan will result in significant benefits for our downtown. Canad Inns has the experience and resources to undertake a redevelopment project of this magnitude.” said Ross McGowan, president and CEO of the downtown development agency. “Not only will this incredible building be returned to its former grandeur, the Canad Inns Entertainment Centre will become a destination, bringing more people downtown and putting more people on our streets after business hours, and that is a critical component in our downtown revitalization efforts.”

“We have long been excited by this opportunity to contribute to the revitalization of downtown Winnipeg,” said Leo Ledohowski, President and CEO of Canad Inns. “We know we can create a great attraction in the heart of our city.”

Canada Inns has a highly successful track record in the hospitality industry. Most of its properties not only offer fine accommodations and unique food and beverage venues, but are designed as entertainment destinations. “It is tremendous for our downtown that Canad Inns had the Metropolitan Theatre in their sights when looking for development opportunities. Mr. Ledohowski’s ability to envision, construct and operate successful entertainment venues will allow this treasured historical building to once again be open for public enjoyment.” said Councillor Russ Wyatt, the Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development.

Canad Inns is in the process of refining their concept and further details will be forthcoming. . The intent is to restore and use as many of the original character

elements as feasible. Most of the building's unique features will remain or be enhanced and, in some cases, reconstructed.

Original architectural features, such as the main entrance and canopy, front façade and mezzanine windows, which were lost due to “modernization” renovations in the past, will be restored. All public areas will be returned to their original design style.

The Metropolitan Theatre was built in 1919 and originally named the Allen Theatre. It was one of a national chain of luxury movie houses owned by the Allen family, of Ontario. The Allen was acquired by Famous Players in 1923 and renamed The Metropolitan. It remained a first-run movie theatre until it shuttered its doors in the late 1980s. It is the only theatre of its kind in Winnipeg whose original form has not been altered.

Canad Inns, Manitoba's largest hotel chain, ([www.canadinns.com](http://www.canadinns.com)) is owned and operated by Canad Corporation of Manitoba Ltd. The privately-owned company has seven hotel complexes in Winnipeg, one in Portage La Prairie and another in Brandon. Its newest hotel property and waterpark in Grand Forks, North Dakota, is currently nearing completion, while a Canad Inns adjacent to Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre is in development.

Canad Inns employs more than 2,000 people and has been recognized as one of Canada's 50 Best-Managed Companies at the Platinum Club level for the last four years.

CentreVenture ([www.centreventure.com](http://www.centreventure.com)) has been an advocate and catalyst for business investment and development in Winnipeg's downtown since 1999. The arms-length city agency recently launched The Heart of Gold Plan – a three-year strategy for continued downtown revitalization, particularly along Winnipeg's signature streets Portage and Main.

CentreVenture has succeeded in selling numerous parcels of surplus, city-owned properties for development and attracting the private sector investment required to put these nonperforming assets back on the tax rolls. CentreVenture, which works in partnership with the City of Winnipeg, the Province of Manitoba, and in concert with the private sector, has enjoyed considerable success in facilitating the rejuvenation of heritage buildings and in fostering residential growth downtown, a key component in creating a dynamic, prosperous city centre.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:**

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