



Blake Richards, M.P.
Wild Rose

News release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 29, 2009

FEDERAL GRANT BOOSTS AIRDRIE'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

The City of Airdrie will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year with the help of a \$38,500 grant from the Conservative government to mark the milestone.

Blake Richards, Member of Parliament for Wild Rose, announced the Canadian Heritage funding today, saying the money will help fund events that the city's centennial committee has planned as part of the municipality's 100th anniversary celebrations on September 10, 2009.

"Airdrie has come a long way since the first homesteaders arrived in the area more than a century ago and began to build a community that has since become one of the fastest-growing cities in all of Canada," said Richards.

"There is much for residents to take pride in and celebrate throughout Airdrie's century of growth from a village into a city. I congratulate the organizing committee for the two-and-a-half years of hard work that has gone into making this celebration possible. Our Conservative government is pleased to make this contribution to the festivities," Richards said.

The Airdrie Centennial Committee has organized a series of events to mark the milestone, including a homecoming weekend, the unveiling of a Centennial Legacy Art Project, a youth performing arts showcase, a concert series, historical theatrical presentations and a re-enactment of the arrival of the CP steam train - accompanied by community members in period costume - depicting the historical significance of the rail line to Airdrie's founding and growth.

"We are so pleased to have received this grant to help celebrate this very significant milestone in Airdrie's history," said Donelda Johnson, the Projects and Events Chair for the Airdrie Centennial Committee.

"It is very important to us as citizens to recognize where we have come from and where we are going as a city. Appreciating our past helps to form our future in this great city. We've come a long way!" she said.

The funding is provided through the Ministry of Canadian Heritage's Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage program. This program, created in September 2007, provides Canadians with more opportunities to take part in local activities that present arts and culture and celebrate local history and heritage.

For a complete list of planned Airdrie Centennial Celebration events, please visit www.airdrie.ca/cent/events.cfm.