

Canada's First Public Planetarium Reopens September 29

EDMONTON, AB – August 29, 2023 – Nearly 40 years after it closed, the now meticulously restored Queen Elizabeth II Planetarium (QEP) will be reopened. The City of Edmonton has designated the QEP as a Municipal Heritage Resource and TELUS World of Science – Edmonton is thrilled to announce the official reopening and ribbon-cutting ceremony with Edmonton Mayor Amarjeet Sohi and other honoured guests will be on September 29.

"We are immensely proud to reopen the QEP. As Canada's first public planetarium, it sparked imaginations and ignited passions for space and science from 1960-1983," said Constance Scarlett, President & CEO, TELUS World of Science – Edmonton. "We are delighted to revive this historic landmark, a testament to the enduring importance of community learning, and excited to use it for future scientific education and inspiration."

"I have made many memories at the Queen Elizabeth II Planetarium with family, friends and colleagues through the years, and I am very pleased to see this space re-open for Edmontonians and guests to visit and revisit for generations to come," said Mayor Amarjeet Sohi. "The restoration of this very special planetarium is a tribute to the City of Edmonton's commitment to rehabilitating and restoring our historic resources."

Since it opened on September 22, 1960, over one million guests enjoyed stargazing, seeing the Sun, Moon, constellations, and planets in our solar system like never before. Designed by the City Architect's Office, the planetarium's bold and modern expressionist style made it a central focal point of Coronation Park, where its unique structure resembled a hovering spaceship. The dedication to educational programming led by founding director Ian McLennan garnered world-wide attention, solidifying the QEP's status.

The QEP closed its doors on December 31, 1983, leaving behind cherished memories of its celestial wonders. In 2017, the City of Edmonton began renovations and guided by Parks Canada's conservation guidelines, the planetarium has been restored to its former glory.

TELUS World of Science – Edmonton will open its doors to students and visitors of all ages. School groups will enjoy tailored educational programs that complement curriculum STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) learning. Additionally, exclusive rentals will provide unique and unforgettable science experiences for small gatherings. The planetarium will once again be an extraordinary venue, uniting the beauty of the cosmos with the spirit of community and education.

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A media advisory with details of the official reopening and ribbon cutting ceremony will be circulated closer to September 29, 2023.

Learn more about the Queen Elizabeth Planetarium at: twose.ca/QEP

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NEWS RELEASE

About TELUS World of Science – Edmonton

TELUS World of Science – Edmonton's mission is to: Ignite curiosity. Inspire discovery. Celebrate science. Change lives. We are the destination to engage Albertans' hearts and minds in science. The Edmonton Space & Science Foundation is a non-profit organization that operates TELUS World of Science – Edmonton.