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Calvin Kruk Centre for the Arts to bring vitality to Dawson Creek

Dawson Creek, BC – The Calvin Kruk Centre for the Arts is no longer just a dream, but is quickly becoming a reality. Vancouver-based Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden Architects (HBBH) has recently been selected as the primary architect to transform the historic Post Office in downtown Dawson Creek.

The renovation of the 1950s building is both an exciting and challenging proposition for HBBH. The firm first made its mark on the architectural scene with its visionary approach to the redevelopment of Vancouver's Granville Island in 1977. Shells of old industrial buildings became filled with new life and purpose. The same will be true for the Post Office, if HBBH has their way. *"For our team,"* said HBBH Principal Bruce Haden, *"the successful design of the new arts centre will respect the handsome mid-century qualities of the building while at the same time provide the necessary changes to create a dynamic new facility for the Dawson Creek community."*

The vision of former Mayor Calvin Kruk, the new arts centre is a legacy that is more than just his namesake. It is also a tribute to his commitment to the arts and the environment. The new facility will provide a much needed home for the performing and visual arts, bringing higher profile to each. As well, reusing the former Federal building and retrofitting it with state-of-the-art technology will minimize the centre's environmental footprint.

The call for proposals drew international attention to the project. Being the firm selected for the job was a big win for HBBH. *"The Post Office site has been on our radar for some time,"* said Mr. Haden. *"In terms of the history of the site, the integration of "green" technology and the opportunity to bring vitality and life to the downtown core is very exciting. The project offers us a tremendous opportunity to be part of something special."*

The City received numerous proposals from other firms, but in the end it was the approach from HBBH that was most in keeping with the City's vision for the new centre. *"I am very excited to have an internationally recognized firm such as Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden working for us in designing the Calvin Kruk Centre for the Arts,"* said Mayor Bernier. *"Growing up in the Greater Vancouver area, I was aware of the world-class projects this firm has taken on, including Granville Island and The Roundhouse Legacy Project. The entire selection committee was impressed at the passion the architects showed for the potential of the old Post Office as it becomes our community centre and a downtown anchor."*

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About Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden Architects

Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden is a firm with expertise in mixed-use and waterfront development, urban planning, historic restoration, residential, municipal, cultural and academic building types. HBBH is responsible for a wide range of work in Canada, the USA, Australia and China and have successfully designed a number of arts facilities including the Kelowna Rotary Arts Centre and the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts in Burnaby, BC. The firm's pursuit of design excellence has been acknowledged nationally and internationally through numerous publications and more than 50 design awards, including a 2008 Governor General's Medal in Architecture for the Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre in Osoyoos, BC.