

## **Assiniboine Park Conservancy Celebrates Completion and Upcoming Opening of The Leaf**

### **For immediate release**

**Winnipeg, Manitoba, November 19, 2022** — The Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) celebrated the completion and upcoming opening of The Leaf today at a memorable gathering of special guests most closely connected with the once in a lifetime project. Located in Winnipeg's historic Assiniboine Park and surrounded by approximately 30 acres of new gardens and greenspace, The Leaf is the most significant horticultural development undertaken in Canada within the past 25 years.

Designed to fulfill a modern purpose by exploring the universal human connection with plants and nature, The Leaf features state of the art engineering and stunning architecture designed to create a transcendent visitor experience and optimal growing conditions for thousands of trees, shrubs, flowers, and other plant life flourishing in four unique indoor biomes.

Guests in attendance at today's celebration included the APC board of directors and leadership group, representatives from the three levels of government and industry partners, members of the design and construction teams, APC staff, and others who have helped make the vision for The Leaf a reality.

The project has been made possible by investments of up to \$35M from the Government of Canada and up to \$15M from the Province of Manitoba through the New Building Canada Fund: Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component – National and Regional Projects (PTIC-NRP). The Province is also contributing an additional \$10M for a total provincial investment of up to \$25M. The City of Winnipeg has contributed \$13.3M in capital funding to the project.

After a formal program that included greetings from dignitaries, guests were invited to explore The Leaf's four expansive biomes and enjoy a dazzling variety of special performances and demonstrations.

An opening date for The Leaf will be announced soon.

### **Quotes:**

"Today, we celebrate the completion of The Leaf at Assiniboine Park, a unique horticultural attraction offering visitors new opportunities to learn and explore how nature shapes our culture and communities. Our government is proud of this collaboration with the Government of Manitoba, the City of Winnipeg and the Assiniboine Park Conservancy to drive tourism in the region and showcase Canada's multicultural and natural heritage."

— *The Honourable Jim Carr, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South Centre, on behalf of the Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities*

"For decades, Assiniboine Park has been a gathering place for Manitobans and for visitors to our province. The Manitoba government is proud to have invested \$25 million in The Leaf – Canada's Diversity Gardens to enhance the park as a gathering place and to make these new attractions a centrepiece for a celebration of the province's diversity. A bold vision and an impressive collective effort have made The Leaf – Canada's Diversity Gardens an inspiring, world-class destination that will capture the imagination for years to come."

— *The Honourable Reg Helwer, Manitoba Minister of Labour, Consumer Protection and Government Services*

“Like a lot of Winnipeggers, Assiniboine Park has always been one of my favourite places in the city. APC has done tremendous work transforming the Park over the past 13 years, and The Leaf caps off that effort in truly remarkable style. My family is looking forward to spending lots of time exploring the biomes and the outdoor gardens, and as mayor, I’m proud to share this inspiring space with residents and visitors to our city.”

— *Mayor Scott Gillingham, City of Winnipeg*

“The Leaf – Canada’s Diversity Gardens is a world class attraction and a place where people from all cultures and all walks of life can find common ground, rooted in our universal connection with nature. We are so grateful to everyone who has worked so hard and given so generously to bring this vision to life and can’t wait to share the magic of The Leaf with Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, and the world!”

— *Margaret Redmond, President & CEO, Assiniboine Park Conservancy*

### **About The Leaf – Canada’s Diversity Gardens:**

- The Leaf – Canada’s Diversity Gardens is the final major phase in the redevelopment of Assiniboine Park and Zoo that got underway in 2009.
- The project consists of approximately 30 acres of new public gardens and greenspace known as the Gardens at The Leaf, which opened in July 2022, and The Leaf, a magnificent new indoor horticultural attraction. An opening date for The Leaf will be announced soon.
- The Leaf houses four unique indoor plant biomes:
  - Hartley and Heather Richardson Tropical Biome
  - Mediterranean Biome
  - Babs Asper Display House
  - Shirley Richardson Butterfly Garden
- Visitor amenities include beautifully appointed event and banquet facilities, indoor and outdoor programming spaces, a gift shop, coffee bar, and exciting new destination restaurant called Gather Craft Kitchen & Bar.
- Through horticultural and interpretive displays, education programs, on-site engagement, and special events, The Leaf – Canada’s Diversity Gardens will explore the human connection with nature and the role plants play in shaping our communities and cultures.

### **Links:**

<https://www.assiniboinepark.ca/leaf/lifegrows>

<https://www.assiniboinepark.ca/leaf/visit-leaf/hours-and-rates>

<https://www.assiniboinepark.ca/leaf/about-the-leaf/explore>

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