

## **Alberta Thai Association Thai Center Update November 2016**

Since our last update in September, the Thai Centre, which was part of the Aurora Place project – a partnership with Terra Centre and Prince Rupert Community League (PRCL), has encountered an unanticipated situation brought on by PRCL that has had the effect of bringing the project to a halt.

Some PRCL community league members had brought forward concerns and voiced opposition to moving ahead with the project. Concerns included a too-large building footprint and too many parking space allocations which they felt would affect their community green space and playground area. After a City-sponsored revamp of the building design and then through another door-to-door campaign and open house held in the September/October timeframe to further educate the PRCL community on the Aurora Place project and provide a forum for questions and answers (prior open house events as well as door-to-door campaigns in the community had been conducted over term of this partnership), many of the community's concerns were addressed.

Nevertheless, at PRCL's community league meeting November 2nd, a *majority of the PRCL community league members in attendance voted to opt out of the partnership*. The impact for the other two partners has been immediate. Though the land that the building was to be built on is owned by the City of Edmonton and was "gifted" to the partnership for the Aurora Place project, because it is in the PRCL community, without their support, we cannot proceed with the project.

In terms of financial impact, the ATA being a small shareholder in the building has been least impacted. Further, our ATA Board of Directors (BOD) is looking at options to minimize or mitigate any further financial liability. It is still too early to assess best next steps by ATA and Terra as well as partner liability. To date, the partners and the City have already spent nearly \$600,000 with ATA's portion equivalent to approximately 5% of this total.

Once we have a better understanding as to where the partners are and the legal and financial obligations to our stakeholders, contractors, project managers, consultants etc., we will be in a better position to make decisions. We expect to receive a series of spending and tracking reports shortly to figure what further costs are involved to close out the project.

In a recent meeting with Terra, PRCL, ATA and City of Edmonton representatives, informal and positive options were presented as to how we could proceed after termination of the current partnership. Terra, ATA and the City of Edmonton will investigate further options and their viability.

The ATA BOD will provide further updates as more information comes available. The future of the Thai Centre Project will also be a major topic at our upcoming Annual General Meeting in February 2017. Please attend and contribute your thoughts on this important topic.