



## NEIGHBOURHOOD DESCRIPTION

Fort Edmonton was first established on the site of today's legislature grounds, west of the Downtown neighbourhood. However, the Hudson Bay Company Reserve lands were situated directly north of the Fort, and as the town grew it was forced to locate east of the Fort to allow for expansion. As a result, the turn of the century commercial hub of activity was located at Jasper Avenue and 97th Street. Jasper Avenue remains the main avenue but commercial activities have expanded significantly to the west of 97th Street, once the Downtown was able to expand into the south portion of the reserve.

The Downtown is bounded on the north by 105th Avenue, to the west by 110th Street, and to the south by the North Saskatchewan River Valley escarpment. The neighbourhood provides a complex mix of institutional, office, retail, warehouse and residential land uses which are supported by LRT stations and major transportation corridors. The provincial government centre, the old warehouse district, the Jasper Avenue commercial/office corridor, the municipal government and arts district, growing residential communities, and the planned Arena district make Downtown a diverse neighbourhood.

The Downtown, particularly since the 1970s, has been continually undergoing some form of redevelopment. Since the late 1990s residential intensification within the Downtown has been a significant form of redevelopment, but the planned Arena district and Royal Alberta Museum will further diversify the commercial and recreational opportunities.