

Old CBE Headquarters



Alternate Name	Education Centre Building, Calgary Board of Education
Address	515 Macleod Tr SE Click here to view in Google Maps
Community	Downtown Commercial Core
Year Constructed	1969
Type	Education: office
Current Owner	
CHI Watch Risk¹	High (4 out of 5)
Designation²	Not protected
City Inventory	City Inventory CBE Education Centre
Significance³	<p>The old CBE headquarters is a Brutalist style building constructed from brute (raw) concrete. The building was constructed during Calgary's first major Urban Renewal Scheme in the 1960s, a seven-block area targeted as the beginning of a much larger urban renewal project to redevelop the "blighted" east end of downtown, intended for government uses (including school board office), churches, and cultural facilities. It was the first purpose-built administrative headquarters for the Calgary Public School Board (renamed the Calgary Board of Education in 1975).</p> <p>The building is a five storey, concrete structure, featuring an all-concrete exterior skin for the principal façades. A substantial cantilevered floor allows the upper two levels to float over the lower plinth. Solar screens on the upper windows create a strong texture of shadow lines on the façade. It is a very good example of the style of which there are few examples in Calgary. The building is in a park-like setting that contains the Brotherhood of Mankind statues on the westerly section. City Wide Historic Resource.</p>

Who³	The historic home of Mayor Alexander Lucas, and later of pioneer Methodist missionary Reverend John McDougall, was demolished to build the Education Centre Building.
Status	Vacant and fenced
CHI's Position Statement	CHI's position is that this landmark structure deserves protection and reuse, either as is, or as a podium to a larger structure.
Upcoming	This site has gone silent, and there is currently no announcements known at this time.
Public Call to Action	Regardless of where you live, spread the word through social media and your community contacts that this building is worth saving. Email, tweet, phone, write your Councillor, Druh Farrell the Councillor of Ward 7 which includes downtown, and Mayor Nenshi.
Related articles	2015 http://www.avenuecalgary.com/City-Life/Whats-Happening-with-the-Former-CBE-Headquarters/ 2014 http://calgaryherald.com/life/swerve/brutalism-has-long-had-an-unfortunate-name-and-a-bad-reputation 2014 http://www.metronews.ca/news/calgary/2014/11/05/remediation-work-underway-at-former-calgary-board-of-education-headquarters-future-of-storied-site-unclear.html 2012 http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/cbe-sells-former-education-centre-1.1152686
Historic Photos	Calgary Corporate Records Archives

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1. CHI Heritage Watch Rating

5	Imminent loss	Active plans for demolition
4	High Risk	Risk factors + negative intentions / dormant demolition plans
3	At Risk	Risk factors
2	Possible Risk	Unknown intentions or mix of negative and positive factors
1	Monitoring	Positive intentions but still possible risk

2. A designated Municipal Historic Resources is legally protected against demolition or inappropriate changes.

3. Primary Source: City of Calgary Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources