

News Release

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TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC WORKS--Red Room Ceiling Restored

Restoration of the ceiling in the historic Red Chamber at Province House is complete.

Province House is the oldest legislature and recognized as one of the finest examples of Georgian architecture in Canada, Transportation and Public Works Minister Don Downe said today.

"Repairing the ceiling of this room required a very specialized process," said Mr. Downe. "It was a painstaking effort to make certain that the restoration could be done using a technique that would emulate the original work."

Speaker-designate Gerry Fogarty officially welcomed the public back into the Red Chamber.

"The cornerstone was laid for the building of this House in 1811," said Mr. Fogarty. "Today we are humbled to stand here in the same room as many great Nova Scotians who have made history here and look at the same intricate work they looked upon."

The \$257,000 project was carried out by Cureggio General Construction Ltd. of Halifax. The specialized process developed for this kind of repair was led by Ron Stewart of Historic Plaster Conservation Services, subcontracted by Cureggio.

"The process I used rebinds the plaster on the underside of the ceiling to the wooden laths above the ceiling," said Mr. Stewart. "The result is a perfect restoration, retaining the esthetics of history to the naked eye, while making the aging ceiling stronger."

Said Mr. Downe: "Maintaining the proud history here at Province House was a priority going into this project. I am delighted we've been able to go one step further with this work, fortifying the ceiling for the decades to come."

The Red Chamber, also known as the Red Room, was closed to the public in April as a safety precaution after concerns were raised about the possibility of falling plaster. After the tender process was complete, restoration work began in August and took approximately eight weeks.

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