

LEGISLATURE ANNEX (1952–2021)

The Legislature Annex was built in 1952–53 as the headquarters of Alberta Government Telephones (A.G.T.). It was Alberta's first International Style high-rise building with a bold design that embodied the optimism and prosperity of post-World War Two Alberta.



Legislature Annex (left), Legislature Building (right), and grounds 2021.

Courtesy of Historic Resources Management Branch.

The Legislature Annex was designed by the Alberta firm Rule, Wynn and Rule, architects of many notable Alberta buildings including Rutherford Library at the University of Alberta (1951) and Elveden Centre in Calgary (1959-64). Though originally constructed as a six-storey building, the architects designed the Legislature Annex with footings to accommodate up to six more storeys, which were added in 1963.

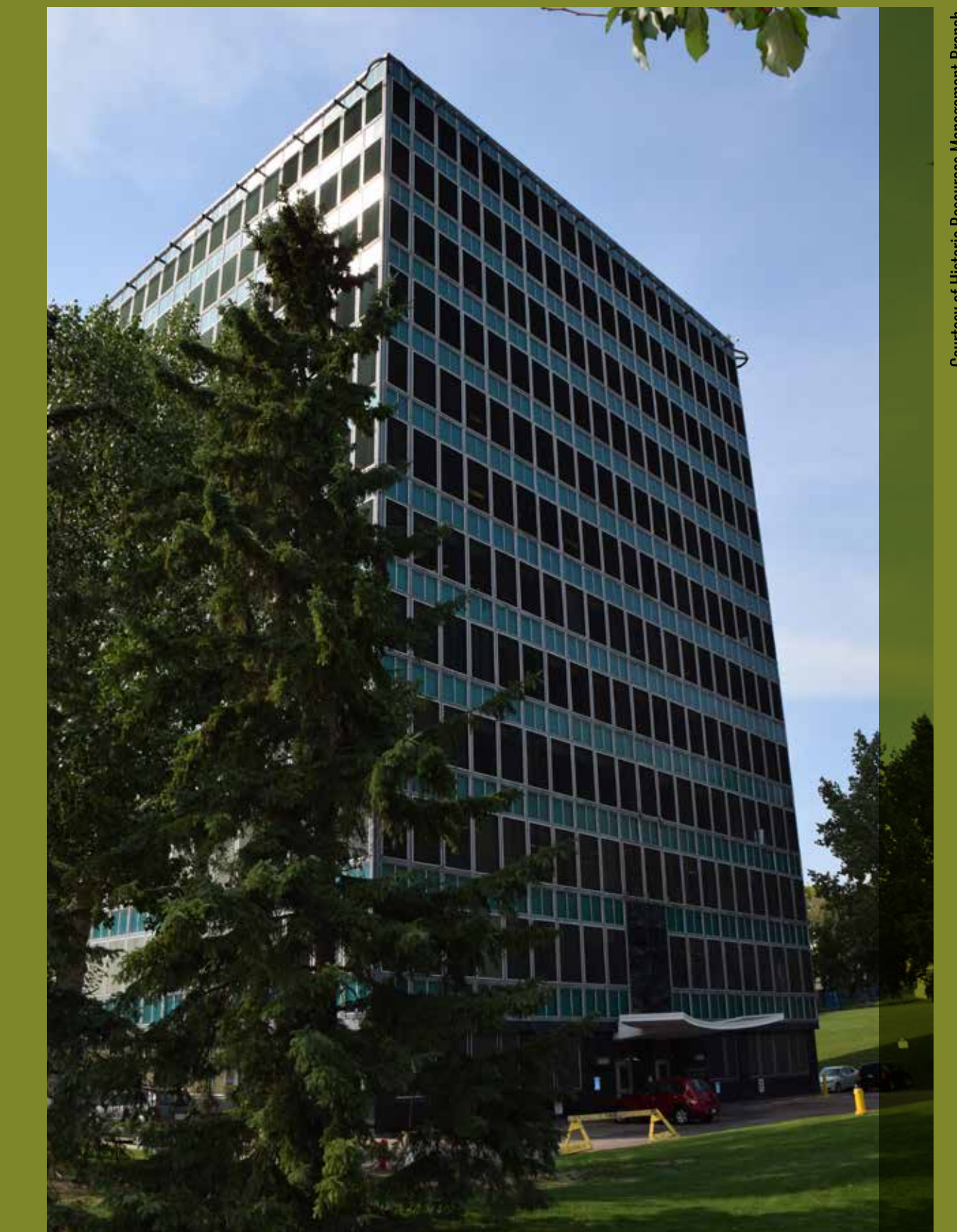
The most striking feature of the Legislature Annex was its green glass cladding. This resulted in it being dubbed the “little United Nations building”, after the famous 1952 UN Secretariat building in New York, which has a similar exterior. Despite its appearance, the Legislature Annex was not a curtain wall building. Rather than sheets of glass suspended from the building frame, the Legislature Annex had windows, some of which could be opened, and cladding mounted on a perimeter wall on each floor. Nevertheless, the building was a prominent presence in the Legislature grounds that made a clearly modern architectural statement.

In 1966, other government agencies joined Alberta Government Telephones in the building and after 1971, when A.G.T. moved out, it became known as the Legislature Annex. For many years Members of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council had their offices in the building. By 2019 all occupants had left, and in 2021 the Legislature Annex was demolished.



Courtesy of Provincial Archives of Alberta, 8P451.

The Legislature Annex
(A.G.T. Building), 1954.



Legislature Annex, 2014.

Courtesy of Historic Resources Management Branch.



Alberta Government Telephones Building, 1953. A.G.T.'s focus on innovation and technology was emphasized by a sculptural figure symbolic of twentieth-century telecommunications above the main entrance.

Courtesy of City of Calgary, Corporate Records Archives, CA1953514020.



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