

## Historic buildings spared from Hydro expansion

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A block of historic Winnipeg buildings is safe from a wrecking ball because of a Manitoba Hydro decision to shift a substation expansion plan elsewhere.

Two weeks after three six- or seven-storey Exchange District commercial buildings were revealed as targeted for purchase and redevelopment by the utility, Manitoba Hydro president Bob Brennan confirmed today that the project at that McDermot Avenue site will not go ahead.

Instead, Brennan said, Hydro will look for another nearby site at which to expand its power substation at 64 King St. — a project required to significantly boost electricity distribution in the downtown area.

The decision means that businesses, art galleries and other organizations leasing space at the century-old edifices will not have to scramble to find new homes.

Brennan did not specify timelines or costs for the substation expansion and Hydro's search for a property for it, though he suggested that the Crown corporation will press ahead on the project in hopes of completing it as soon as possible.

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