

Media Release

For Immediate Release
January 7, 2010

Art Gallery of Alberta and Compass Group Canada announce new restaurant

EDMONTON, AB – The Art Gallery of Alberta (AGA), in partnership with **Compass Group Canada**, is happy to announce the opening of **Zinc**, a resto lounge located in the AGA. Zinc will begin full lunch and dinner service on **Tuesday, February 2, 2010** (see hours of operations below). The 75+ seat full-service restaurant will be available for viewing and light lunch during the AGA's opening celebration on **Sunday, January 31** and **Monday, February 1, 2010**.

Zinc, named for the (Zinc) cladding that covers much of the new Gallery building, will be a relaxed, fine dining resto lounge, focusing on fresh Alberta ingredients fused with local artisan food products. Menus will change seasonally and will include dishes inspired by featured art exhibitions, as well as new weekly entrées.

"People will be able to enjoy a contemporary dinner or cocktails at the bar, in a modern, urban atmosphere," said **Jeff Bell, Vice President, Leisure & Entertainment, Compass Group Canada**, AGA partners in this venture. "We've got an exciting location, funky décor and a great chef!"

Zinc's culinary team is led by **Executive Chef Dave Omar**, who brings more than 20 years experience and a creative approach for bringing 'Simple Elegance' to the table. Working with Alberta farmers and local artisan food producers, Chef Omar will provide Zinc guests with intense, fresh and unique flavours.

"Together with my team, we will bring the newest food trends to the Edmonton region," said Chef Omar. "We recognize emerging trends and will offer our twist on them – not by following -- but rather by leading the industry on the latest in culinary ideas."

Intimate dinners and group celebrations will be enjoyed in an interior designed by award winning, Toronto-based, **II BY IV Design Associates**. The space integrates modern dining amenities within AGA architect Randall Stout's aesthetic. The shapes, colours and textures of the area are inspired by the periodic table of elements. Highlights of the space include a 4 metre (14-ft) tall feature wall of end-cut Douglas fir, three expansive walls of 12 metre (40 ft) high windows, and a cobalt blue, back-lit glass bar.

Compass Group, an industry leader in food service and hospitality, has specialized in the cultural sector for more than 30 years. Compass Group also manages **Petrie Court Café & Wine Bar**, at New York City's **Metropolitan Museum of Art** and **C5 Restaurant Lounge**, at the Royal Ontario Museum in downtown Toronto.

In addition to the full service restaurant, the AGA will also offer two kiosk espresso bars. **The Terrace Café** will be located on the Gallery's third floor, overlooking the outdoor **City of Edmonton** sculpture terrace. The AGA's lower level will house **L1 Espresso Bar**. This kiosk will be accessible directly from the LRT pedway system and will open early to accommodate morning commuters. Both Espresso Bars will feature gourmet coffee and espresso beverages, wine by the glass, sandwiches, biscotti, pastries and snacks.

Zinc's culinary team will also run the AGA's on-site catering. Zincatering will provide a restaurant-style catering experience for the events in the new facility, with the availability of menus featuring exhibition-inspired cuisine.

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Hours of Operation:

Zinc:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday & Wednesday	11:00 am to 2:30 pm then 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Thursday & Friday	11:00 am to 2:30 pm then 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Saturday	10:00 am to 2:30 pm then 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm
Sunday Brunch	10:00 am to 2:00 pm

LL1 Espresso Bar: Weekdays, 6:30 am-10:30 am

Terrace Café: in conjunction with Gallery Hours

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For information on Zinc, please contact Executive Chef David Omar
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For information on Zinc Catering, please contact Elisa DeFazio
elisa.defazio@compass-canada.com; 780.392.2505

For information on II BY IV Design Associates Inc., contact:
Melissa Van Loon at melissa.vanloon@iibyv.com ; 416-351-2224

For more information on the Art Gallery of Alberta and the two-day opening celebration, please contact Sarah Hoyles, Media Relations & Communications Coordinator
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ABOUT THE ART GALLERY OF ALBERTA

The Art Gallery of Alberta is a centre of excellence for the visual arts in Western Canada, connecting people, art and ideas. The AGA is focused on the development and presentation of original exhibitions of contemporary and historical art from Alberta, Canada and around the world. The AGA also offers a full-range of art education and public programs. Founded in 1924, the Art Gallery of Alberta maintains a collection of over 6,000 objects and is the oldest cultural institution in Alberta and the only museum in the province solely dedicated to the exhibition and preservation of art and visual culture. The AGA recently underwent a major re-building project. Designed by Los Angeles architect Randall Stout, the 85,000 sq foot (7,900 sq metres) new AGA opens to the public on January 31, 2010. The new Gallery features three floors of premiere exhibition space; the City of Edmonton Terrace; the Singhmar Centre for Art Education; Zinc resto lounge; shopAGA; Ledcor Theatre and an Art Rental and Sales Gallery.

The Art Gallery of Alberta is a not-for-profit organization that relies on the support of its Members, donors, sponsors and government. The AGA is grateful for the generous support of the many public and private donors and sponsors who have made the AGA's New Vision possible, as well as the ongoing support of the City of Edmonton, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, The Canada Council for the Arts and our Members.

ABOUT COMPASS GROUP CANADA

Compass Group Canada is the country's leading foodservice and support services company, with revenues of \$1.2 billion (approx.) in 2008. Operating in 55 countries and with over 388,000 associates worldwide, its parent company, Compass Group PLC had revenues of £11 billion in 2008. Compass Group PLC was named the world's 20th largest employer by Fortune Magazine.

ABOUT Zinc

Located at the Art Gallery of Alberta in downtown Edmonton, Zinc resto lounge offers a fine dining experience inspired by simple elegance. At the heart of the Zinc menu are fresh Alberta ingredients fused with local artisan food products. The tantalizing creations are served in stunning surroundings. Intimate dinners, group celebrations, casual lunches or the simple enjoyment of a glass of wine become inspired at Zinc.

Media Contact

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