

Sod turned for condos

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Another high-profile condo-tower project is now officially underway in downtown Winnipeg.

The sod-turning ceremony for Sandhu Developments Inc.'s D Condos project was held under a blazing sun Wednesday at the former Restaurant Dubrovnik site at 390 Assiniboine Ave.

Sandhu Developments president Karampaul Sandhu said crews have already begun working on the foundation for the \$34-million, 24-storey tower. That work is expected to take about two months to complete, "and then the parkade will start going up," he added.

The first five floors in the complex will be a heated parkade. The other 19 floors will be devoted to tenant amenities -- such things as an outdoor terrace, fireside lounge, private dining room and fitness studio -- and 91 two- and three-bedroom condos. The condos will range in size from 713 to 1,516 square feet and range in price from \$363,900 to \$732,000.

Sandhu said the riverside complex is expected to take about 18 months to build, and the first residents should begin moving in during the winter of 2015-16. More than 70 per cent of the condos have already been sold, he said.

D Condos is the second high-profile downtown condo-tower project to break ground in the last five weeks. The other is Urban Capital's 21-storey, 195-unit Glasshouse Skylofts in the City tower on Hargrave Street just north of Portage Avenue. That tower is part of the 311 Portage Avenue at Centrepoint development.

D Condos is also the second high-rise residential tower under construction on Assiniboine Avenue. Just a few blocks to the east, Winnipeg's Crystal Developers is building a 25-storey, 200-unit apartment block on a former city-owned property.

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