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Union Station celebrates 100th year with upgrades

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POLITICIANS and railway officials kicked off a celebration of Union Station's centennial on Friday by announcing repairs to the historic building are complete.

Union Station is the largest station owned by VIA rail and celebrates its 100th year in 2011. The first train arrived at the station on Aug. 7, 1911, and it officially opened on June 24, 1912.

The station played an important role in Winnipeg's development, and was the major gateway for an immigration boom in the years before the First World War.

The federal government spent close the \$3 million to repair the station to fix deficiencies and make it more efficient.

The upgrades include repairs to the roof, new lighting and air conditioning, and a new natural gas heating system to make the building more energy efficient.

Charleswood MP Steven Fletcher said the repairs are complete just as the historic building celebrates its centennial.

"Just as it is now, Winnipeg was a city on the move," Fletcher said, following a preview of a National Film Board film on the station's history.

VIA Rail officials said more events to celebrate the station's history will be held in the lead up to June 24, 2012.

— staff

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