

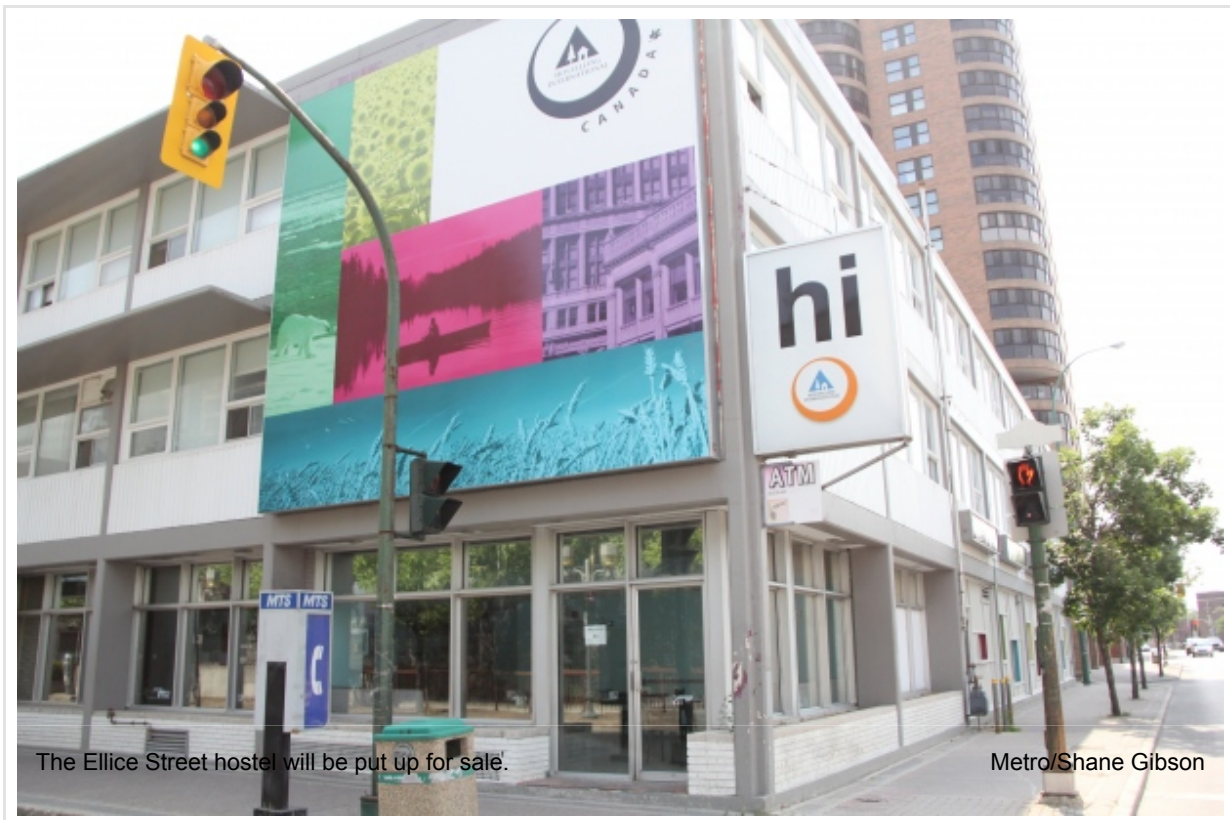
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# Downtown Winnipeg hostel to be put up for sale

By Lauren Parsons  
Metro Winnipeg



A popular downtown pub and restaurant could soon be closing its doors.

In a few short weeks the Ellice Street Hostelling International (HI) Manitoba building will be put on the market after being unable to make a substantial profit from the 120-bed low-budget accommodation.

“It’s not something we’ve come to too lightly,” said Clara Mackay, spokesperson for the Forks-North Portage Partnership (FNPP). “They’ve done some great things for the area.”

The building was purchased by FNPP in 2008 in a partnership with HI, but unfortunately the hostel's low number of guests and debt from construction ended up being too much in the prime location.

"We found it critical to be a part of the urban renewal," said Bob Somers, spokesperson for HI Manitoba. "We also have a great manager who has a head for entertainment and bringing people in there."

Because of that, it came to no surprise to HI spokesperson Somers that soon after opening, the Lo Pub became a popular destination for students and young adults in Winnipeg.

"Hostels all have a common area, like a kitchen, where you get together and meet people from around the world – what we have here is a great place where not only are guests doing that, they also get to meet with locals," said Somers.

The Lo Pub and Lo Bistro, along with the hostel, will remain open until the building has been sold.

Somers said there are no concrete plans to obtain a new building as of yet, but hopes to see a future for HI in Winnipeg.

"Hopefully whatever we do, it's not a finale," said Somers.

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