

**CALGARY  
ASSESSMENT REVIEW BOARD  
DECISION WITH REASONS**

In the matter of the complaint against the property assessment as provided by the *Municipal Government Act*, Chapter M-26, Section 460, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000 (the Act).

**between:**

***Blackfoot Centre Ltd., (as represented by Altus Group), COMPLAINANT***

**and**

***The City Of Calgary, RESPONDENT***

**before:**

***T. Hudson, PRESIDING OFFICER***

***E. Reuther, MEMBER***

***B. Jerchel, MEMBER***

This is a complaint to the Calgary Assessment Review Board in respect of a property assessment prepared by the Assessor of The City of Calgary and entered in the 2011 Assessment Roll as follows:

**ROLL NUMBER: 112137609**

**LOCATION ADDRESS: 510 77 AV SE**

**HEARING NUMBER: 64242**

**ASSESSMENT: \$11,770,000**

This complaint was heard on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011 at the office of the Assessment Review Board located at Floor Number 4, 1212 – 31 Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta, Boardroom 2.

Appeared on behalf of the Complainant:

- R. Worthington

Appeared on behalf of the Respondent:

- G. Bell

**Board's Decision in Respect of Procedural or Jurisdictional Matters:**

A matter central to the interests of the Parties in these hearings, is whether the Direct Sales Comparison approach to value employed by the Respondent, or the Capitalized Income approach to value employed by the Complainant, yields the best estimate of market value for the industrial properties under complaint.

In this regard, the Parties questioned whether all of the members of this panel of the Board had, in the course of their participation in previous hearings, heard the evidence, testimony and rebuttal with respect to the 2011 Industrial Cap Rate Evidence for Multiple Roll Numbers, prepared by the Complainant. Both of the side panel Members responded affirmatively, while the Presiding Officer advised that he had not had that opportunity.

The Parties suggested that they would provide a complete, but summarized version of their presentations on the Cap Rate issue. The Parties also requested that their Cap Rate presentations be brought forward and considered in the deliberations and decisions of the Board with respect to a number of individual industrial property assessment complaints scheduled for hearing by this panel of the Board, including the subject property.

The Board had no objection and agreed to proceed as requested by the Parties.

**However, it was noted that the Board will be guided by CARB 0522/2010-P, which states that, “ the legislation and attendant regulations do not identify the valuation approach chosen by an assessment authority to be the subject of a complaint to, or adjudication by a Composite Assessment Review Board (CARB). CARB’s judge the fairness and equity of the assessments which result from the valuation process, not the valuation process itself. The process is subject to audit Under MRAT Article 10 with respect to quality standards, but not to complaint adjudication by CARB’s.”**

**Property Description:**

The subject property is a 9.72 acre parcel of land located in the Fairview industrial area, improved with one (1) multi-tenanted (IWM) warehouse; and one (1) single tenant (IWS) warehouse. The improvements were constructed in 1964 and 1978, and represent 32.62 % site coverage. Warehouse #1 has 129,114 square feet (sf.), of net rentable area, with 10.00% office finish. Warehouse #2 has 8,969 sf., of net rentable area, with no office finish.

The 2011 Assessment Explanation Supplement indicates that the subject property was assessed at \$11,720,000, based on land value only. The assessment has been calculated using the parcel size of 9.72 acres at \$1,360,000 per acre, (Page 23 of Exhibit C4).

The Respondent also included the calculation of the assessment based on the Direct Sales Comparison approach. The amount for Warehouse #1 is \$9,440,000 (rounded), or \$73 per square foot (psf.), of net rentable area. The amount for Warehouse #2 is \$1,470,000 (rounded) or \$164 psf., of net rentable area. The total amount is \$10,910,000 (rounded) or \$79 psf., of net rentable area. The total amount includes a negative adjustment for more than one improvement on the parcel.

**Issues:**

Does the Current Assessment Amount Exceed the Market Value of the Subject Property?

Is the Current Assessment Amount Equitable when Compared to the Assessments of Similar Properties?

**Complainant's Requested Value:** \$10,760,000 (rounded) or \$78 psf., of net rentable area.

**Board's Finding in Respect of Each Matter or Issue:**

Does the Current Assessment Amount Exceed the Market Value of the Subject Property?

**The Board finds that the current assessment amount is not a reasonable estimate of the market value of the subject property. The Board further finds that the Respondent has not demonstrated that the highest and best use of the property was anything other than the current use as December 31, 2010.**

**The Board also finds that the Complainant has not demonstrated, based on market evidence, that the requested reduction in the assessment amount reflects both fee simple estate and market value for the subject property.**

The Complainant argued that due to a lack of industrial sales that are comparable to the properties under complaint, a reasonable estimate of the market value for assessment purposes, should not be determined using the Direct Sales Comparison approach.

In addition, the Complainant submitted evidence in support of their assertion that the time adjustment factors used by the Respondent to adjust sale prices, significantly understate the impact of the economic downturn on real estate values during the period from July 2008 to June 2010 (Exhibit C3(b), page 3). Under these circumstances, the Complainant argued that it is generally accepted assessment practice to prepare assessments for income producing properties based on the Capitalized Income approach to value.

In support of the Income approach, the Complainant prepared the aforementioned 2011 Industrial Cap Rate Evidence for Multiple Roll Numbers, (Exhibits C1 and C2). The analysis examined the rate of return on the sale of eight (8) industrial properties that sold between April 2009 and April 2010, (Charts pages 19, 20, of Exhibit C1).

The Complainant employed the actual income stream of each of the properties at the time of sale; reduced by a combined 5% vacancy and non-recoverable expense factor, to arrive at stabilized net operating income (NOI). The NOI divided by the actual sale price generated a cap rate for each sale. A proposed cap rate of 8.25% for industrial properties constructed before 1995, and 7.75% for properties constructed after 1995 resulted from the analysis. These cap rates were applied in preparing the assessment amounts requested for the properties under complaint, **excluding the subject**.

**In the case of the subject property, the Complainant indicated that an equity solution has been requested, due to the unique circumstances surrounding the correct valuation approach to determine the 2011 market value assessment for the subject property.**

The Respondent indicated that the Board should confirm the current assessment because the land value clearly exceeds the combined value of the land and improvements on the subject property.

Is the Current Assessment Amount Equitable when Compared to the Assessments of Similar Properties?

**The Board finds that the current assessment of the subject property is not equitable when compared to the assessments of similar properties.**

The equitable assessment amount requested by the Complainant and the Direct Sales Comparison approach assessment amount prepared by the Respondent, both support a reduction in the current assessment for the subject property. Both of the parties also submitted several assessment equity comparables which also support a reduced assessment.

**Board's Decision:** The assessment is reduced to \$10,910,000.

DATED AT THE CITY OF CALGARY THIS 8 DAY OF November 2011.



**T. B. Hudson**  
**Presiding Officer**

**APPENDIX "A"****DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT THE HEARING  
AND CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>ITEM</b>
1. C1and C2	Complainant Cap Rate Evidence
2. C3 (a), and (b)	Complainant Rebuttal
3. C4	Complainant Disclosure
4. R1	Respondent Disclosure

*An appeal may be made to the Court of Queen's Bench on a question of law or jurisdiction with respect to a decision of an assessment review board.*

*Any of the following may appeal the decision of an assessment review board:*

- (a) the complainant;*
- (b) an assessed person, other than the complainant, who is affected by the decision;*
- (c) the municipality, if the decision being appealed relates to property that is within the boundaries of that municipality;*
- (d) the assessor for a municipality referred to in clause (c).*

*An application for leave to appeal must be filed with the Court of Queen's Bench within 30 days after the persons notified of the hearing receive the decision, and notice of the application for leave to appeal must be given to*

- (a) the assessment review board, and*
- (b) any other persons as the judge directs.*

**For MGB Administrative Use Only**

<i>Decision No.</i>		<i>Roll No.</i>		
<u>Subject</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Sub-Type</u>	<u>Issue</u>	<u>Issue</u>
CARB	Warehouse	Multiple Bldgs, one parcel	Land Value Only	Equity