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September 23, 2008

Mayor and Council  
Vancouver City Hall  
453 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1V4

**RE: Cambie Hotel, 300 Cambie Street/160 West Cordova**

We are writing to you to express our support for the proposed upgrading package for this heritage-designated building in the Gastown Heritage Area.

The Cambie Hotel, built in 1899, is a landmark heritage resource, and is one of the last un-restored heritage buildings in the Woodward's block. When the City enacted the freeze on the Heritage Building Rehabilitation Program and the Transfer of Density program in August 2007, the proposed upgrading of the Cambie Hotel was one of the projects put on hold. Given the current uncertainty of the HBRP and the TOD programs, we urge City Council to explore creative methods to assist the building owners in their upgrading program.

If a density transfer is not available, one of the other ways to offer incentives is to allow potential uses that would assist economic viability, and enable investment into this important heritage structure. The owners have proposed a package that includes a number of adjustments to current uses, and the revitalization of the consolidated structure at 160 West Cordova. This would involve, among other measures, the opening of a new specialty liquor retail store, which would not normally be allowed under the conditions of the City's 1990 "moratorium" policy. Given the changing circumstances in the area, including the construction of a 42-storey market residential tower adjacent to the Cambie, it is a reasonable alternative to consider relaxations and exceptions to City policy to ensure economic viability for heritage buildings that cannot otherwise be rehabilitated. This is a creative response to the challenges facing the City's Heritage Program, and an alternative to the use of density as our primary heritage incentive.

Heritage Vancouver therefore supports the proposed rehabilitation package for the Cambie Hotel.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Douglas MacKay, Member of the Board  
Heritage Vancouver Society