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March, 2010

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

**Re Carleton School**

On behalf of Heritage Vancouver I am writing to express our concerns regarding the original two-room schoolhouse at Guy Carlton Elementary. The recent move to apply for demolition of the fire damaged structure rather than execute necessary repairs we believe is short sighted.

While the Vancouver School Board has given the community a lead time to possibly come up with an alternative solution we at Heritage Vancouver believe that it would be a grievous loss of a heritage structure. Under Heritage Vancouver's criteria it fulfills several mandates, one of original structure and still functioning or continuous use in its intended capacity. Continuing in this vein it is also oldest continuous operation school structure in Vancouver since 1892 with it having served for decades as a gentle introduction to school for generations of kindergarteners. The early Vancouver schools also functioned as a nucleus to their surrounding community and the two-room schoolhouse continued in this role as a fundamental part of Collingwood Days Celebrations.

During these challenging economic times it is easy to understand the Ministry of Education's position as holder of the insurance policy and bind that the Vancouver School Board finds themselves in with a surplus of classroom space. As it stands now the original two room structure occupies very little footprint of the overall Carlton Elementary site And while the costs of demolition are estimated at \$75,000.00 versus 625,000.00 for necessary repairs Heritage Vancouver feels it would be and inestimable loss of heritage to the Collingwood neighborhood and the greater Vancouver Community

We thank you in advance for your immediate attention to this most urgent matter.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "don luxton".

Donald Luxton, President

cc. Penny Ballem, City Manager  
Marco D'Agostini, Senior Planner, Heritage Group  
Sue Harvey, Managing Director of Cultural Services  
Brent Toderian, Director of Planning