

P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3Y3, (604) 254-9411

April 19, 2010

Chair Patti Bacchus & Vancouver School Board Trustees

Re: The Kindergarten Building (Carleton Hall) at Carleton School

The Carleton School Kindergarten Building (Carleton Hall), an "A" building on the City of Vancouver's Heritage Register faces imminent demolition unless the Vancouver School Board extends the deadline for demolition of the building until at least June, 2011. The planned demolition date, the end of June 2010, does not give the community sufficient time to come up with a workable plan to restore the building and identify a future use for it.

As the oldest school building in the city, the importance of the Kindergarten Building (Carleton Hall) as a historical asset stretches well beyond the boundaries of the Collingwood community – it is important to all of Vancouver. In addition, the community has rallied before to save this building, in 1986 when it was previously threatened. There is a deep and abiding affection for this structure, and great interest in its preservation.

Heritage Vancouver urges the Vancouver School Board to take immediate action to stabilize Carleton Hall and avoid further moisture damage to the heritage elements of the building. The Board should then mothball Carleton Hall until a use and sufficient funding for the restoration can be found. The building has been sitting empty for the past two years while the Vancouver School Board and the Ministry of Education attempted to come up with a plan for the building's future. The community deserves at least a year to come up with their solution. The building does not present a crisis situation and there is no need to demolish it with such haste.

The Vancouver School Board could also look at creative ways such as using the estimated \$75,000 in demolition costs to set up a restoration fund and then invite community members and donors to add to the fund. Heritage Vancouver is pleased to support the community in their efforts, and we urge the Vancouver School Board to assist in this matter so that there is adequate time for fundraising to occur.

Thank you for your willingness to further explore this issue, and take positive action that will ensure the continued future of historic Carleton Hall.

Yours truly,

Donald Luxton, President

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cc. Mayor Gregor Robertson and Council
Marco D'Agostini, Senior Planner, Heritage Group

Penny Ballem, City Manager

Brent Toderian, Director of Planning