



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

November 20, 2007

To whom it may concern,

Re: Citizens Proposal for the Retention of Dickens School – 1913 Original Block

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Citizen's Proposal to retain and adaptively re-use the 1913 central block of Charles Dickens School for non-core curricular and extra-curricular community uses.

The Friends of Dickens must be commended on their positive and proactive approach to the revitalization of this neighbourhood historic landmark. Their Proposal is a serious document outlining the needed services and amenities that justify possible investment by public and private agencies. This is exactly the kind of analysis that will be key to preserving our history as we build the livable and sustainable city to which we aspire.

As you may be aware, we are on record as strongly supporting the retention of Dickens School. This VHR 'B' site is cherished by local residents as one of the few significant public heritage in the Kensington Cedar Cottage neighbourhood, and has been on Heritage Vancouver's Top Ten Endangered sites for several years running.

As the building is currently scheduled for demolition in Spring 2008, it seems reasonable to request the Vancouver School Board delay demolition to provide time to secure the required partners and funding for the project. Otherwise we agree that the City of Vancouver should use whatever authority it may have to delay permission for demolition.

We are very interested in this Proposal as a pilot example for the retention of other historic schools. The current funding formula for seismic upgrades has put virtually the entire stock of older schools at risk of replacement -- creating an acute and unprecedented crisis for which creative approaches are needed. The re-use of former school buildings for community and other uses may well be the answer where the economics of seismic upgrade for traditional school use is not supported.

Let us know in what manner we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

Donald Luxton, President
Heritage Vancouver

cc. Barbara McGeough, Save Charles Dickens School Group