



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

July 6, 2006

Mr. Johnny Carline
CAO-GVRD

Dear Mr. Carline

Re: Impending Demolition of Chancellor Building (6090 Chancellor Blvd, UBC)

We are writing with urgency regarding the imminent demolition of the Chancellor Building. We are shocked and dismayed at this most recent development, and call for an immediate halt to work until an independent heritage assessment is done and consultation beyond the UBC campus is conducted.

Built for the Anglican Theological College in 1927 (two years after development of the Point Grey campus) the Chancellor Building was one of UBC's oldest and most architecturally important structures. Designed in keeping with the 1914 Sharp and Thompson master plan, the Chancellor complex is one of Vancouver's finest examples of the English Arts and Crafts movement. It is our opinion that if this structure – if located within the City of Vancouver – would be listed in the City's Heritage Register in the 'A' evaluation category.

We have witnessed recent campus developments with utter disbelief:

- The adjacent VST Iona Building: this granite clad landmark embodied the Collegiate Gothic architecture in the 1914 Master Plan, and was arguably of similar stature to Main Library. Recent interventions to the building and its context display a shocking disregard for basic heritage practices and standards.
- UBC Main Library: Appalling desecration of UBC's signature landmark, including token retention of the central block and complete gutting of its architecturally significant interiors. The bunker-like replacement structure bears no relation to the remaining core façade either in terms of design or scale.

The UBC administration has demonstrated an appalling disregard for its heritage resources, and an obvious lack of will or ability to properly manage them. Equally troubling is the lack of broader community consultation regarding UBC's significant heritage legacy. It is time that UBC ceased operating, in effect, as a 'company town' and recognized its responsibility to the broader community of which it is a part. The University's architectural heritage is a public legacy, and must be held to the same

generally accepted conservation standards as other administrative bodies. In the absence of municipal authority, if UBC management cannot be counted on to properly manage its public legacy, legal mechanisms must be implemented at the Regional level to ensure proper heritage conservation is mandated. Meanwhile, we urge that all available means be employed to prevent the destruction of the Chancellor Building. Demolition is forever.

We look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "don luxton". The signature is fluid and cursive, ending with a small flourish.

Donald Luxton, President
Heritage Vancouver