



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

October 10, 2006

Chair Lois Jackson and Directors  
Greater Vancouver Regional District

Dear Ms. Jackson and Directors,

**Re: UBC /UEL Governance – Heritage Issues**

We are writing further to our July correspondence to Mr. Carline regarding the since-demolished Chancellor Building and other UBC/UEL heritage issues.

The enclosed copy of our September newsletter features a lead article, entitled 'Company Town', which outlines our concerns and conclusions. These can be summarized as follows:

- UBC is fundamentally a 'company town' with little or no public oversight and no accountability for management of its significant architectural resources. The same applies to its associated theological colleges.
- The UBC governing and administrative bodies have demonstrated an appalling disrespect for campus heritage, disregard or ignorance of basic heritage conservation standards, and an obvious lack of will or ability to properly manage this significant public legacy
- Broader public consultation is largely absent
- Unlike GVRD municipalities, the UEL neighbourhoods, which contain an important traditional and modernist legacy, have no heritage protection
- The public interest in UBC/UEL heritage conservation will only be secured through elected governance and municipal incorporation.

Recent events at UBC provide cause for great concern. These include demolition of the **1927 Chancellor (Theological) Building** and most of the **1925 Main Library**, and disfiguring renovations to the **Iona (Theological) Building**. More demolitions are planned, including replacement of the **Law Faculty**, whose 1949-50 wing is a seminal example of the early modern movement in Vancouver.

We contend that 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. Campus governors and administrators, quite naturally must advance corporate priorities and will not be accountable to community input and oversight until they are legally required to do so by municipally elected representatives reviewing professional and community input.

This is not simply a heritage issue, but can be seen in a host of community and regional issues from transportation to affordable housing and development impacts. A change in governance is clearly overdue, and that change must be in the form of municipal government for all of the lands west of the Vancouver/UEL boundary. Recognizing that a self-governing UBC/UEL may be inefficient and financially unsustainable, the obvious alternative would be to bring the UBC/UEL lands within the jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver which, to its credit, has a respected planning department and a sophisticated heritage program. Such an outcome may be the only hope for UBC's and UEL's beleaguered heritage.

We urge the GVRD to give serious and timely consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "don luxton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Donald Luxton, President  
Heritage Vancouver

cc. Mr. Johnny Carline, CAO-GVRD  
UBC campus planning director...  
UBC president...  
UBC Board of Governors...  
UEL administration...