



## Heritage Vancouver

www.heritagevancouver.org  
info@heritagevancouver.org  
604 254 9411

309 - 268 Keefer Street,  
Vancouver, BC  
V6A 1X5

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Niall Coffey  
Project Coordinator, City of Vancouver

### **Re: 5503 Blenheim St. (DP-2019-00971); Morrisette Farmhouse (1912)**

**We fully support** the initiative taken by the applicant to retain, rehabilitate, and update the historic Morrisette Farmhouse in Kerrisdale, and look forward to it once again being a strong historic link to early Kerrisdale, and an asset to the neighbourhood.

If the application is not approved, we cannot see a future for the Morrisette Farmhouse, due to its current compromised state, and the complexity and challenges of the formerly negotiated HRA.

We also strongly encourage the City of Vancouver to expedite the approval processes with its various departments to curb further deterioration of the property and house. The legally-protected "A" listed property on the Vancouver Heritage Register has suffered from a lack of proper maintenance for years because it has been vacant and unmaintained for years. There have also been significant delays in addressing attempts to achieve a resolution to this issue and the current application appears to present the only way to move forward.

We further encourage the City to address a related issue of acting upon reports and enforcing a minimum maintenance standard for legally-protected buildings, such as this protected building which over recent years has suffered from vandalism, interior gutting to the studs, unsympathetic window replacements, broken/open windows, etc. Calls to the City to report such issues have mostly resulted in inaction, causing further deterioration to the structure. In addition, when various individuals have called in to report, many front-line staff appear to be unaware of how to address reported issues for a legally-protected heritage property.

The Morrisette Farmhouse was included on our 2014 Top10 Threat List:

#### **4. Morrisette Farmhouse (1912) - Historic Vancouver farms: A disappearing breed**

<http://heritagevancouver.org/top10-watch-list/2014/4-morrisette-farm-house-1912-historic-vancouver-farms-a-disappearing-breed/>

Respectfully submitted,  
Heritage Vancouver Society

cc Vancouver Heritage Commission  
Johnathan Katz, J & R Katz Design + Architecture