



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

Oct. 6, 2011

Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vancouver City Council
Vancouver City Hall
453 W. 12th Ave.
Vancouver, BC, V5Y 1V4

Re: Gordon T. Legg Residence, 1241 Harwood Street

On behalf of Heritage Vancouver, I am writing with great urgency to urge you to reject the current development proposal for this site, and to reconsider your lack of support for the Heritage Revitalization Agreement that would preserve the "A" listed Legg Residence at 1241 Harwood Street.

The demolition of this historic West End Mansion is absolutely unnecessary. In May 2011, the owner presented a proposal to Council that would have seen the Legg Residence preserved and restored to its "Gold Rush Splendour" in exchange for permission to build a 17-storey tower on site. The Heritage Revitalization Agreement would have ensured that this Mansion, such a unique and important reminder of the early days of Vancouver's history, would be preserved for future generations. The HRA proposal followed all of the city's own guidelines, had been approved by the city's Heritage Commission and Design Panel and was supported by City staff. Despite this, City Council turned down an opportunity to preserve this important landmark building.

Heritage Vancouver is now shocked by the alternate proposal to demolish the "A" listed building while still allowing a 17-storey tower to be built on the site. We do not understand why this proposal would be supportable if the previous application – which retained an A-listed heritage resource – is not. Following this direction, rather than approving the proposal to preserve the Legg Residence, would be an enormous setback for the City of Vancouver's Heritage Program and would send a profoundly negative message to other owners contemplating retention of a heritage building. **The demolition of this West End Mansion is absolutely unnecessary and would undermine the credibility of the City of Vancouver's Heritage Program.**

We urge you to reject this current proposal, and as an alternative approve the previous Heritage Revitalization Agreement application for this site. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Leduc", written in a cursive style.

Janet Leduc
Executive Director, Heritage Vancouver Society

cc. Penny Ballem, City Manager
Marco D'Agostini, Senior Planner, Heritage Group
Brent Toderian, Director of Planning
Members of the Heritage Commission