



## Heritage Vancouver

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Trustees of the Congregation of the Ryerson United Church  
2195 West 45th Avenue, Vancouver BC V6M 2J4

**Re: Dunbar-Ryerson United Church Development  
2165-2195 West 45th Avenue, Vancouver**

We are writing to **express our support for the heritage conservation measures** that are incorporated in this ambitious project.

**The most significant heritage measure** is the decision to designate the historic church building as a protected heritage property. This will ensure that the building will continue to be used for religious services, as well as being available for community uses, especially as an ideal rehearsal and performance space for choral and other musical groups. Consequently, Dunbar-Ryerson United Church will continue to be the home for brilliant choirs including the Vancouver Chamber Choir and the Elektra Women's Choir.

In our [Heritage Vancouver Top10 Watch Lists](#) of endangered heritage sites, we have included threatened church sites in three years from 2014 through 2016. We have stated that when church buildings close, Vancouver communities lose more than Sunday worship space; they lose space for the countless social and cultural activities that churches accommodate seven days a week. Therefore, we are especially pleased that Dunbar-Ryerson United Church has found a creative way of ensuring a future for this heritage resource.

**The second heritage conservation measure** is your commitment to offer the four existing character houses for free to a potential owner who may be interested in relocating and reusing the existing buildings.

We expect that this component of the proposal will be acted upon, with a wide scope across various major media channels in hopes that the public will be well aware of this opportunity to save part of Vancouver's fast disappearing character through relocation.

The character houses are 2267, 2279 and 2291 West 45th Avenue, located immediately to the west of the existing stone church and 2165 West 45th Avenue, located east of Yew Street. Saving one or more of these houses will benefit the environment by reusing an existing structure and will provide the social benefit of reducing the cost of a new house.

Nickel Brothers has years of experience in relocating houses in this region. We have discussed this and other projects with them and they have determined that once a donor site is found, any one of these four houses could be moved at reasonable cost, dependent upon distance.

On behalf of the members of Heritage Vancouver, we are pleased to support these creative heritage conservation measures.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heritage Vancouver Society

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Dennis Langendorff, Estimating & Sales, Nickel Bros. Canada