



NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR
HISTORIC TRUST
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July 25, 2019

Mayor Danny Breen
Deputy Mayor Sheilagh O'Leary
Councillors Burton, Collins, Froude, Hanlon, Hickman, Jamieson, Korab, Lane, and Stapleton
City of St. John's
P.O. Box 908
St. John's, NL A1C 5M2

Re: Anglican Cathedral Annex

Dear Mayor Breen, Deputy Mayor O'Leary, and Councillors Burton, Collins, Froude, Hanlon, Hickman, Jamieson, Korab, Lane, and Stapleton:

On behalf of the board and members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust, we write in regard to the proposed annex to the Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

The Historic Trust strives to participate in the City's engagement processes related to development within the Heritage Zone. The City gave four business days' notice of the public information session it is hosting on July 25, 2019 to solicit feedback from the public regarding the proposed design of the Anglican Cathedral Annex. Four business days' notice is inadequate to allow the Historic Trust to provide the City with its opinion regarding the proposed development. Furthermore, revised renderings of the proposal were posted on social media on the same day as the public information session, providing even less time to adequately review and comment.

Many valid concerns regarding the proposal – in terms of design, its potential impact on the Cathedral's historic fabric, and its siting within the Cathedral grounds – have already been raised.

Given the prominence of the building and site within the historic core of St. John's, and its status as a locally- and provincially-designated building and National Historic Site of Canada since 1981, any proposal to alter the Cathedral should be approached with the utmost care, taking into account both the landmark building and larger site.

Discussion of any such proposal should involve neighbourhood stakeholders, heritage professionals, heritage advocates, historians, and architects not associated with the project proponents. We urge Council to follow a transparent design review process that relies on expert knowledge and allows for adequate public consultation to ensure that any proposed addition to the Cathedral has been thoroughly reviewed in terms of potential historic, architectural, archaeological, and landscape impacts.

The Historic Trust would welcome the opportunity to contribute to this necessary dialogue.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust

The Newfoundland and Labrador Historic Trust is dedicated to the preservation of the province's buildings and landscapes and their importance to communities.

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