
From: Barry and Trudy [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, May 08, 2016 9:44 PM
To: Office of the Legislative Counsel
Cc: mayor@halifax.ca; ca@zachchurchill.com; Minister, DMA; CNS Minister; gloria.mccluskey@halifax.ca; outhitt@halifax.ca; steve.craig@halifax.ca; Brad.Johns@halifax.ca; Matt.Whitman@halifax.ca; reg.rankin@halifax.ca; stephen.adams@halifax.ca; russell.walker@halifax.ca; Linda.Mosher@halifax.ca; Jennifer.Watts@halifax.ca; browns@halifax.ca; Lorelei.Nicoll@halifax.ca; bill.karsten@halifax.ca; David.Hendsbee@halifax.ca; Barry.Dalrymple@halifax.ca; Wayne Mason
Subject: Law Amendments Committee & Bill 177
Attachments: Law Amendments Committee May 08, 2016.doc

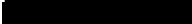
Dear Law Amendments Committee Members,

Please find enclosed letter requesting amendments to Bill 177 to allow the HRM Municipal government to take charge of the issuance of demolition permits and enforce stricter control of needless demolition permits and immediately develop policy around criteria and rules whereby the city would either permit or deny demolition of existing built properties.

Sincerely,

Barry Copp

May 08, 2016


Dartmouth, NS
B2Y 1R7

Dear Law Amendments Committee Members,

I have watched for some time with shock, the needless demolition of heritage buildings including homes in Halifax and throughout the province of Nova Scotia. Developers have found many loopholes in our antiquated and very weak Heritage laws in order to demolish properties and sometimes build structures that are not consistent with the existing streetscapes or neighbourhoods.

I request that there must be changes made to Bill 177- to Amend the HRM City Charter and the Municipal Government Act for protection of built environment streetscapes, public spaces. Amendments to the Municipal Government Act and Halifax Regional Municipality Charter so as to allow the HRM Municipal government to take charge of the issuance of demolition permits and enforce stricter control of needless demolition permits and immediately develop policy around criteria and rules whereby the city would either permit or deny demolition of existing built properties. An amendment to the City Charter is a quicker and more practical way to change the control of the issuance of demolition permits to the city than the alternative of changing the Municipal Act.

The issuance of demolition permits should be suspended until such time as these new policies and rules are in place. Demolition should only be permitted if there is an approval for a new development. Such a project should conform to existing planning policies and regulations. Penalties should apply if the project does not go forward within a prescribed time frame. Further regulations need to be developed through zoning to ensure that the transition from one use to another when permitted does not have a negative effect on abutting properties as well.

I am alarmed at the number of buildings we have lost just in the past year alone. The character, incredible craftsmanship and materials used in the construction of some of these buildings will never be seen or duplicated again. We must act quickly or we will wipe out our history altogether. We have friends and relatives from other provinces and countries that have been heartbroken realising things they once saw as part of our history now gone. It is important to our tourism industry and economy to preserve these sites with historic value even if these don't have heritage designation. I am not against new development but not at the expense of our heritage.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Barry Copp