

Calgary Heritage Authority

September 30, 2015

Attn: Mayor and Councillors

Re: LOC2014-0054 – Proposal to Relocate Eau Claire Smokestack

The Calgary Heritage Authority (CHA), in accordance with its role to advise Council and Administration on heritage matters in the City of Calgary, would like to take this opportunity to offer comments on the subject proposal.

The Eau Claire Smokestack is a legally protected heritage asset designated by City of Calgary Bylaw 37M2008 as a municipal heritage resource. The designation reflects the smokestack's significance as a reminder of the development history of the Eau Claire area.

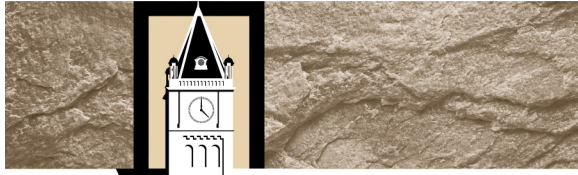
The 90 foot, red brick smokestack (built in 1947), is located prominently at the intersection of 2 Ave and Barclay Parade SW. Bylaw 37M2008's statement of significance recognizes the role the smokestack has played in the history of Eau Claire and Calgary: *"Together with the Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber company office, built in 1911, the smokestack recalls the successive industrial uses of the area before it's development as a shopping and entertainment district in the 1990's".*

The CHA is not in support of the proposal to relocate the smokestack to accommodate re-development of the site.

Relocation of the smokestack will require the designation bylaw to be rescinded. To our knowledge, this will be an unprecedented act and will serve to severely diminish the effectiveness of legal protection of heritage assets. Indeed, if the smokestack is moved to accommodate development pressure, we expect future requests to relocate other legally protected heritage resources.

A key character defining element identified in Bylaw 37M2008 is the smokestack's *"original placement on site"*. Site integrity is key element according to the Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada. Compliance with





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the Standards and Guidelines is a requirement for provincial heritage grant funds, and the smokestack will likely be ineligible for grant funds if it is relocated.

The CHA is not concerned with development effects of diminished scale and presence of the smokestack, and believes that adjacent development will provide contrast to the stack and an increased sense of presence.

We encourage council to refuse the request to relocate the Eau Claire smokestack. Rescinding a legal protection bylaw is a serious step that should be considered only under extreme circumstances. The conversation may be different if this heritage asset stood in the way of critical infrastructure; this is not the situation with this proposal.

The Eau Claire smokestack deserves a better fate than relocation to a "petting zoo" area where it will forever languish as a misunderstood and under-appreciated relic.

Thank-you for your thoughtful consideration on this matter, should you or your staff require more information please contact our executive director, Josh Traptow, at josh@calgaryheritageauthority.com or (403) 837-7359.

Yours truly,

Scott Jolliffe
Chair, Calgary Heritage Authority

Cc: Whitney Smithers, Director of City Wide Policy & Integration
Clint Robertson, Senior Heritage Planner
Executive Assistants to the Councillors

