



June 10, 2014

Etobicoke York Community Council
via email: etcc@toronto.ca

Dear colleagues,

RE: Request for Heritage Review – 51 Panorama Court

Several months ago, the Provincial Government indicated it would end service at the Thistletown Regional Centre, a treatment facility for adolescents and youth. I am writing to request your support in ensuring the heritage value of this facility is appropriately protected.

The Thistletown Regional Centre was designed by leading Toronto architectural firm Sproatt and Rolph, which built some of the most successful and renowned landmarks of Canadian architecture between 1899 and 1934. It is an excellent example of the Modern Classical architectural style that became popular during the 1920s and 1930s, especially for corporate, industrial and government buildings.

The property's history contributes to an understanding of several different aspects of children's medicine and how treatment philosophies and methods have changed over the course of the 20th Century. As a children's hospital, it tells the story of how sun and fresh air were used to treat many diseases for which there was nothing else available, and how this type of convalescent hospital became unnecessary as medicine advanced.

As the first children's mental health centre in Ontario, the building tells the story of how advances in the field have improved psychiatric treatment over the years. In addition, this building is the only known building designed by the architectural firm of Sproatt and Rolph in Etobicoke.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council direct Heritage Preservation Services to investigate the potential of including the buildings at the Thistletown Regional Centre at 51 Panorama Court on the inventory of heritage properties and report back to the September 10, 2013 meeting of the Etobicoke York Community Council.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Vincent Crisanti".

Vincent Crisanti

cc. Joanna Twitchin