

Janne Corneil
Senior Advisor, U3 Advisors, Inc.
1 Pleasant Street, Apt 7-12
Westford, MA 01886

April 22, 2022

Re: **Item PH33.19, Girl Guides Headquarters, 50 Merton Street**

Dear Councillor Matlow,

I am writing to convey my family's support for the Toronto Preservation Board's recommendation to designate the Girl Guides Headquarters building at 50 Merton Street under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Carmen and Elin reside in Trondheim, Norway, where they have lived for the last 30 years after 30 years of practice, teaching, and activism in Toronto from the 1960's through the 1980's. Their architecture has been recognized, nationally and internationally; their teaching has influenced multiple generations of students and practitioners; and their activism has had an enduring impact on returning the Toronto Harbourfront to the public over the last decades.

As outlined in the comprehensive report prepared by the Toronto Heritage Planning staff, the Girl Guides Headquarters building embodies many of the architectural principles and urban design beliefs of the Corneil partnership. Carmen and Elin's embrace of the Modernist tradition in Scandinavia and their sensitivity to urban context is clearly represented in this historically significant Toronto building.

As a practicing urban designer that has worked for 25 years in cities across North America, I understand the challenging balance city planners and administrators must keep between growth and preservation. In my experience, the two do not need to be mutually exclusive. Cities that have saved their historic fabric, including mid-Century structures, are more diverse, better places to live and culturally richer. Redevelopment on Merton Street will be significantly higher quality urbanism if the designers and developers are challenged to not only save but improve the Girl Guides building.

As Marybeth McTeague and Tamara Anson-Cartwright pointed out to us in Zoom interviews we had during the preparation of the report, it is quite unusual for the original architect to be able to provide background and fill in the details about architectural influences, building's details, and the design process.

We hope that you will champion efforts to preserve the Girl Guides building and avert the destruction of one of Toronto's unique and valuable architectural assets.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janne Corneil". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Janne Corneil