



January 20, 2025

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City of Toronto
Planning and Housing Committee
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Attention: Nancy Martins, Administrator

Dear Ms. Martins:

Re: PH18.17 - 29, 31 and 33 Sussex Avenue – Notice of Intention to Designate a Property under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act

We are the lawyers for the Governing Council of the University of Toronto, the owner of 29, 31 and 33 Sussex Avenue (the “Residences”). The Residences form part of the University’s housing program and are used to house university-affiliated persons, including faculty and students with families. There are no plans to redevelop the Residences. We are writing to request that the Committee endorse the Recommendations of City Planning, as supported by the staff report dated December 13, 2024, without amendment.

The University was contacted by City of Toronto Heritage staff to discuss the designation of these heritage listed houses, for which significant heritage study has previously taken place. The University is a proud and successful steward of numerous heritage properties within and around the St. George Campus, and is pleased to support the designation of the Residences as recommended by City staff in their December report.

The University has reviewed the decision of the Toronto Preservation Board and has been made aware of the request to amend the recommendations of City staff to “pursue the examination of the interior...to identify potential heritage attributes...”, which was not supported by City staff, and is writing to confirm its strong objection to this amendment to the Recommendations. The Residences are private dwelling units that are not open to the public. The investigation and entry into private homes of individuals is an extraordinary measure and highly unusual in the City. As made clear in subsequent media posts, the motion appears to have been influenced by inaccurate and baseless comments over unrelated university development. The requested amendment does not represent a proper use of the City’s authority under the *Ontario Heritage Act*, and the amendment should not be adopted by this Committee.

We thank the Committee in advance for its consideration of this communication.

Yours truly,

Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Leisk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a distinct "L" followed by "eisk".

Signe Leisk
Partner

SL/jd