



PO Box 27, Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L4V6

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*** MEDIA RELEASE ***

Frontenac Heritage Foundation appeals Downtown Towers Decision in North Block, Kingston

Kingston, Ontario: Today, lawyers for the Frontenac Heritage Foundation filed a motion for leave to appeal the November 4, 2021 decision of the Ontario Land Tribunal. The decision changes Kingston's Official Plan and zoning by-laws to allow Homestead Land Holdings Inc. to build a 19-storey building on Queen Street between Wellington and King Streets (next to Good Life Fitness and the LCBO) and a 23-storey building on Queen Street between King and Ontario Streets (next to the S & R building).

"We were dismayed by the Tribunal decision," said Shirley Bailey, president of the Foundation. "It ignores City of Kingston's longstanding policies designed to protect the valuable and unmatched heritage character of the downtown area."

The Motion for Leave to Appeal that was filed by Donnelly Law and Gowling as co-counsel asks the court to consider whether errors of law were made by the Tribunal in its November decision – a decision that came to the opposite conclusion of the Tribunal decision released on August 9, 2019. The earlier decision determined that the proposed towers would create "visual intrusion to the streetscape and the prevailing built context" and were "not compatible with the surrounding area."

"The Foundation fully supports respectful and reasonable development in the downtown core. One of our expert witnesses, renowned architect, George Baird, showed the Tribunal how nearly the same number of units could be provided in two nine-storey buildings. Towers of the proposed height are not necessary to increase the number of downtown residential units," says Kurt Khan, vice-president of the Foundation. "In the conversation about development, we often

forget the revenue generated by visitors to our city and the reason they come here, which is to see the unique built heritage of our inner core.”

A short video illustrating this alternative approach can be seen at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uB_clujlQeM

Founded in 1972, the Frontenac Heritage Foundation is a non-profit organization that promotes the protection of buildings, and heritage-supporting activities that contribute to respect for the history and the vitality of the region.

The Foundation is continuing its fundraising efforts to support this appeal. Donations can be made by e-transfer to contact@frontenacheritage.ca or by cheque to FHF, P. O. Box 27, Kington, K7L 4V6.

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