SEVEN OAKS HOUSE MUSEUM
est. 1851
A MANITOBA HERITAGE

FAX # 947-3452

TO: ROBERT MCCALLUM

RE: EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING - APRIL 9, 2003

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY COUNCILLOR LAZARENKO'S OFFICE THAT THE MATTER OF OUR BUDGET FOR THE 2003 SEASON WAS REFERRED BACK TO EPC.

SINCE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ANY MEMBER OF OUR VOLUNTEER BOARD TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT THIS TIME, WE REQUEST THAT THE ATTACHED COPY OF A LETTER DIRECTED TO MS. GAIL STEPHENS ON APRIL 2, 2003, BE ENTERED FOR THE RECORD.

WE STRESS THE URGENCY FOR BUDGET APPROVAL IN ORDER TO ENABLE OPENING AND OPERATION OF THE MUSEUM ON BEHALF OF THE CITY.

THANK YOU.

JAMES FIELDING, CHAIRPERSON

RUTH I. BOYD, TREASURER

APRIL 8, 2003

Rupertsland Boulevard East • West Kildonan • Winnipeg, Manitoba • Ph (204) 339-7429 (June - Sept.)
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 25176 • 1650 Main Street • Winnipeg, Manitoba • R2V 4C8

FAX #947-3452 ATTN: ROBERT MCCALLUM

Copy of letter directed to Ms. Gail Stephens

April 2, 2003

"Ms. Gail Stevens
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 1B9

Dear Ms. Stevens:

As City records will show, the volunteer Board of the Seven Oaks House Museum has endeavoured to seek a nominal increase in their budget for the current season.

According to the Operating Terms of Reference (approved by City Council on January 30, 2002) which we are governed by, our draft budget has gone through the following process:

-- Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee - February 4, 2003 - accepted
-- Standing Policy Committee - February 13, 2003 - accepted
-- Executive Policy Committee - March 12, 2003 - not refused by referred to CAO

We are most anxious to carry out our proposed plans for the current season but lack of additional funding prohibits us from fulfilling out objectives. Our need to have the 2003 budget approved is urgent to facilitate planning prior to the next Community Committee Meeting on April 15, 2003. We are currently recruiting for staff and anticipate making our selection by mid-April to avail ourselves of some very competent young people. Undue delays in our ability to proceed as we hoped may cause us to miss some great opportunities. We currently have fifteen applications from University students who are awaiting replies and/or interviews in response to our recruiting efforts.

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Addition of one more guide, raising the complement to four, would enable us to better serve the visiting public. We currently have two guides on duty each day and a third person would allow staff to partake of a lunch break (for which they are not paid). Current conditions dictate that staff "eat on the run" depending on visitors.

We are also anxious to extend our hours of operation in the hope of encouraging area residents to visit the Museum and avail themselves of the park-like grounds for family activities.

There is a free standing log cabin on the site referred to as the "Store". It currently has chain link fencing from the counter top to the ceiling to prevent direct access by the public to the artefacts therein. This, of course, is unsightly and if the location could be serviced by an additional guide the barricade could be removed and the "Store" considered as a reception area for all visitors.

There are no amenities on the site for staff. Location of the Museum in a residential area does not allow for staff dining opportunities and our proposed improvements would be for the betterment of staff and visitors alike.

Unfortunately, the Seven Oaks House Museum has been sadly neglected for far too many years. Aside from the restoration program established in 2002 for the exterior of the buildings, a great deal of upgrading is required inside the Museum buildings as well. These matters cannot all be resolved immediately and our plan is to address them in an orderly manner.

With respect to improvements in the interior of the Museum, the site has been inspected by Ms. Lee Caldwell of the City's Heritage Department and it is our intention to work in conjunction with her and various Provincial Departments to achieve our goals. The overall undertaking is not one that can be resolved over night and without input/approval of the City. This is a #1 Heritage Building and any restoration or preservation must be researched and well thought out.

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Hopefully you will be able to review our request for the nominal budget increase and reach a decision in time to permit us to prepare for the opening of this site on behalf of the City.

Should you require any additional information we will be pleased to provide on request.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Yours truly,

"James Fielding" "R. I. Boyd"

James Fielding, Chairperson Ruth I. Boyd, Treasurer

c.c. - His Worship Mayor Murray
- Councillor Harry Lazarenko

(Apologies for improper spelling of Ms. Stephens name on original letter.)