Submission – Blair Philpott – Item 1 Report "A" PDHDD – Jan. 17/2022

From: Blair Philpott
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:46 AM
To: Subject: 227 Provencher Boulevard, St. Boniface Civic Centre

Members of the Executive Policy Committee

Back in September 2021, I encouraged the Members of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development to designate this property as a Municipal Heritage Resource.

I understand that the current owner of Etienne Gaboury's Civic Complex, 227 Provencher Boulevard in St. Boniface is objecting to this designation.

Once again, I am asking for your support of this complex.

Architecture is a defining element of great cities. Winnipeg is fortunate to have several architectural treasures but it is those of the modern era which are at the greatest risk.

The building is an excellent example of the Brutalist Style of architecture, one of only a handful in the City of Winnipeg and designed by internationally-renowned modernist architect Étienne Gaboury. The Civic Complex and the neighbouring Health Unit Building were nominated for a Massey Medal for Architecture in 1964 and winners of a Manitoba Association of Architects Award in 1965.

Mr. Gaboury is also our province's greatest architect. To date, the City of Winnipeg has already decided to demolish the Gaboury designed fire halls on Cottonwood and on Des Meurons, as well as the former Windsor Park library (all without formal evaluation). Modernist era heritage is very much threatened. We need to protect this very special place.

Thank you,
Blair Philpott