



The Architectural  
Conservancy  
of Ontario  
www.arconserv.ca

204 -10 Adelaide St East  
Toronto, ON M5C 1J3  
416-367-8075  
toll free 877-264-8937  
fax 416-367-8630  
aco@on.aibn.com

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December 22, 2009

Councillor Adam Vaughan,  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West,  
Toronto, Ontario

**RE: Toronto Library Board meeting January 18, 2010**

Dear Councillor Vaughan,

Following up on your suggestion at the recent War of 1812 Committee meeting, I am writing on behalf of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, architect Michael Kirkland and myself to request an opportunity to present a concept for combining the site of the First Parliament Buildings of Upper Canada with TPL's leased City-owned site across the street.

The parliament site is provincially recognized and partly already in public ownership. Foundations, artefacts and traces of burnt floorboards from the American attack in 1813 have been discovered during the archaeological test dig in 2000.

Not much has happened since then to celebrate the importance of the site as the public acquisition of the remainder is still under negotiation, and future plans are yet unclear.

An opportunity has arisen that might spark a renewed interest in moving things forward. TPL is evidently considering relocating its distribution centre – potentially funded by site-development levies – and establishing a regional library in this increasingly valuable key location as part of development envisaged as the western gateway to the West Don Lands, and the bridging point between Toronto's historic Old Town and new development to the east.

What we are proposing is relocating the proposed library to the parliament site – when the return to public ownership is complete – to become the anchor of the historically themed open-space amenity that has long been sought by the community, elected officials and others. This in turn will free up additional development space on the redeveloped TPL site.

Further value will certainly accrue from the improved outlook for the publicly-owned properties along the east side of Parliament Street.

TPL's Jane Pyper and Anne Bailey have met with us, as has John Campbell of Waterfront Toronto, Councillor Pam McConnell, David Crombie, Heritage Toronto, Deputy Mayor Joe Pantalone and others.

Encouraged, we have subsequently tackled the financial details in greater depth and hope to be able to present these to the Board.

Yours truly,

Rollo Myers, Manager