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File No. ACS2025-PDB-RHU-0007

March 10, 2025

Peace Tower Church Inc.
343 Bronson Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 6J2

RECEIVED
2025/03/12
(YYYY/MM/DD)
Ontario Heritage Trust

Dear Property Owner,

RE: Designation of 343 Bronson Avenue, the Erskine Presbyterian Church, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*

This letter is to advise you that Ottawa City Council, at its meeting of February 26, 2025, approved the following recommendation in respect of the above-noted item:

That Council issue a Notice of Intention to Designate 343 Bronson Avenue, the Erskine Presbyterian Church, under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act according to the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value.

A copy of the complete report in this matter, as well as the minutes of the City Council meeting of February 26, 2025, can be found on the City's website at ottawa.ca/agendas.

Enclosed is the Notice of Intention to Designate, served according to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, to be published online at Ottawa.ca/heritagenotices on March 12, 2025. You will have 30 days from the publication date, until April 11, 2025, to file an objection to the designation. Should you wish to object to the designation, you may do so by submitting a notice of objection in writing, outlining the reasons for the objection and any other relevant information. The notice must be received by the Clerk of the City of Ottawa within 30 days after the online publication of this notice.

Office of the City Clerk
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1
ottawa.ca

Direct Line (613) 580-2424 Ext. 28136
caitlin.salter-macdonald@ottawa.ca

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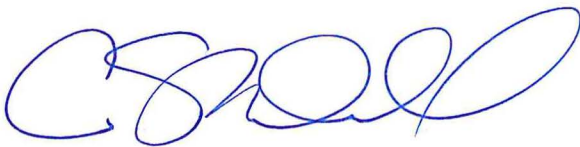
The notice of objection can be submitted via email to CityClerk-HeritageObjections@ottawa.ca, or via registered mail or in-person delivery, by appointment, at the following coordinates:

Caitlin Salter MacDonald, City Clerk
c/o Mélanie Blais, Committee Coordinator
110 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1, mail code 01-71

To make an appointment, please contact Mélanie Blais, Committee Coordinator at (613) 580-2424, ext. 27005, or at melanie.blais@ottawa.ca. When an objection has been received, City Council will consider the objection including all relevant information within 90 days after the end of the objection period. After consideration of the objection, Council may decide to withdraw the Notice of Intention to Designate or to pass a by-law designating the property under the *Ontario Heritage Act*. Should Council pass a by-law to designate the property, there will be further correspondence from the City on how you may appeal this decision to the Ontario Land Tribunal.

Should you require further information, please contact Greg MacPherson, Heritage Planner, at (613) 580-2424, 23665 or by email at greg.macpherson@ottawa.ca.

Regards,



Caitlin Salter MacDonald
City Clerk

c.c. Lauren Luchenski, Built Heritage Research Coordinator, City of Ottawa
 (lauren.luchenski@ottawa.ca)
 Greg MacPherson, Heritage Planner, City of Ottawa (greg.macpherson@ottawa.ca)
 Registrar, Ontario Heritage Trust (registrar@heritagetrust.on.ca)

Encl.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DESIGNATE 343 BRONSON AVENUE, THE ERSKINE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AS A PROPERTY OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST, PURSUANT TO SECTION 29 (3) OF THE *ONTARIO HERITAGE ACT*, R.S.O. 1990, c. O.18

DATED AND PUBLISHED at the City of Ottawa this 12th day of March, 2025

TAKE NOTICE that the City of Ottawa, on February 26, 2025, established its intention to designate 343 Bronson Avenue, the Erskine Presbyterian Church, under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act* for its cultural heritage value.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Erskine Presbyterian Church at 343 Bronson Avenue, currently known as the Peace Tower Church, is a stone church constructed in phases between 1901 and 1906 located on the southeast corner at the intersection of MacLaren Street and Bronson Avenue.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUE OR INTEREST

The Erskine Presbyterian Church has historical value through its direct association with the growth of Ottawa's early Presbyterian community. The Erskine Presbyterian congregation originated in 1870 and constructed their first church in Rochesterville, a former village located in what is now Centretown West, in 1877. Originally known as the Presbyterian Church of Rochesterville, it was the first Presbyterian Church in the west end of Ottawa. Due to the early expansion of Rochesterville and LeBreton Flats, the congregation experienced rapid growth and, in 1887, opened a larger church at Elm and Preston Streets. This church was destroyed by "The Great Fire" in 1900. As a result, in 1900, the Erskine Presbyterian Church purchased the lot at Bronson Avenue and MacLaren Street and opened the original church building in 1901. The site was selected for its proximity to the Somerset streetcar, as well as its location in a growing part of Ottawa. The Erskine Presbyterian Church existed in this building until 2007, when they closed, and the congregation amalgamated with the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The Erskine Presbyterian Church is a representative example of a Gothic Revival church in Ottawa. The rusticated limestone church was constructed in phases between 1901 and 1906. The church features traditional elements of the Gothic Revival style including pointed arched openings, buttresses, prominent towers, steep gables, and a tall spire. The church displays a high degree of craftsmanship through its decorative stone details, rusticated stone cladding, and the use of coloured, leaded, and stained glass. The church was designed by John Pritchard MacLaren, one of Ottawa's most prominent architects from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, best known for designing several Gothic Revival churches in Ottawa and eastern Ontario.

The Erskine Presbyterian Church has contextual value because it is important in defining and maintaining the character of the west area of Centretown and Bronson Avenue, both of which experienced early waves of development in the late 19th and 20th centuries. As an important early religious institution in the neighbourhood, the church maintains and defines the historic character of west area of Centretown and Bronson Avenue. As a place of

worship, the Erskine Presbyterian Church is historically and functionally linked to the institutional character of this area of Centretown. With prominent frontage on Bronson Avenue and a tall spire visible from side streets and parks throughout the surrounding neighbourhood, the church is a landmark on Bronson Avenue and in the west area of Centretown.

DESCRIPTION OF HERITAGE ATTRIBUTES

Key exterior attributes that contribute to the cultural heritage value of the Erskine Presbyterian Church as a representative example of a church designed in the Gothic Revival style include:

- Rusticated stone cladding
- Rusticated stone foundation
- Irregular footprint consisting of rectangular 1901 section and cruciform 1906 addition
- Asymmetrical façades with front gable bays
- Stone buttresses
- Pointed arched and lancet window openings
- Decorative stone elements including sills, voussoirs, hood moulds, stone surrounds, label stops, trefoils, and stringcourses
- Large pointed arched stained glass windows on west and north facades with lancet and rose tracery
- Ground level entrances with pointed arched door openings and decorative features including
 - Stone hood moulds
 - Stone drip edges
 - Stone label stops
 - Transoms with tracery and stained glass
- Tower on northwest corner including
 - Metal clad spire with turrets, finials, and gable dormers

- Regularly spaced and stepped pointed arched and rectangular window openings
- Stone buttresses
- 1901 date stone on west façade

OBJECTIONS

Please be advised that any person wishing to object to this designation may do so under the objection process set out in Section 29 (5) of the *Ontario Heritage Act* by giving the Clerk of the City of Ottawa, within 30 days after the online publication of this notice, a notice of objection outlining the reasons for the objection and any other relevant information.

The notice of objection can be submitted via email to CityClerk-HeritageObjections@ottawa.ca. The notice of objection can also be submitted via registered mail or be delivered in person, by appointment, at the following coordinates:

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For further information please contact: Greg MacPherson at greg.macpherson@ottawa.ca