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Dr. Robert Campbell
President
Mount Allison University
Sackville, New Brunswick

Mr. Bruce McCubbin
Chairman
Board of Regents
Mount Allison University

Members of the Board of Regents
Mount Allison University

Dear Dr. Campbell, Chairman McCubbin and Members of the Board of Regents:

Within the last two weeks, I have learned of the decision to demolish the Memorial Library/University Centre building on the Mount Allison Campus in order to build a new Fine Arts and Performing Arts Centre on that site.

I urge you, the Administration and the Board of Regents, to reconsider this decision and to not destroy this historic, heritage and memorial building that has been a campus jewel for nearly 100 years.

This building has been a focal point for events, activities, meetings, social interactions, celebrations in the Pub, parties, receptions, displays, studying, sharing meals, developing relationships, dances, etc., etc., etc. What's the common theme here Dr. Campbell? For Mount Allison Alumni ... it's MEMORIES! What brings Alumni back to the campus? It's to visit with old friends and the buildings we knew, to relive our memories and reaffirm friendships. I don't remember the content of Dr. Tory's calculus classes (I haven't used calculus since I was at university), but I do remember the fun I had in rebuilding and rewiring the CHMA/Radio Mount Allison studios during my first two years on campus. I have those memories and pictures to cherish. The Memorial Library/University Centre is an extremely important part of those recollections. This building should be preserved and rededicated to the memory of the Allisonian veterans. It should be maintained to foster memories for other Allisonians.

After World War 1, the Memorial Library was dedicated to those 70+ Allisonians who gave their lives for our Freedom. 80% of the total cost of the building was funded by the family and friends of those Allisonian veterans who died on the battlefields of Europe. The plaques with their names listed, are only a part of that dedication to their memory; the real memorial was the building itself. This memory must live on so that future generations of students understand the

sacrifices that were made to allow them to be free in our democratic society.

My last point deals with the heritage nature of this building. There are many heritage buildings around this country that have been renovated and preserved. Assistance is available from Heritage Groups, levels of governments, special interest groups, etc. to assist with preservation. This building has been sitting on a stable, solid foundation for over 80 years. Structural fatigue would not have occurred here and is, therefore, no reason to demolish this heritage building. Resources exist within the Mount Allison community to help the university develop options to preserve this building and to create the new Arts Centre. Retired Engineering Professor Ronald Boorne, amongst others in the Sackville area and elsewhere, is prepared to work with the university to develop alternative plans. Why not engage them? Why not let Professor Emeritis Boorne, who was Head of the Engineering Department in my day at Mt. A, and his colleagues inspect the building, review the engineering consultant's report, and work with the facility management group to come up with a solution that benefits the university, the arts community, the town, the students and faculty, and the alumni.

I thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns. I urge you, the Administration and the Board of Regents, to "stay" the demolition until other options are explored and solutions found that will benefit all stakeholders and will allow the Memorial Library to remain a centrepiece of the Mount Allison campus.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Hiltz, BSc., P.Eng.
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MT. A Class of '78
Past Alumni Board Member
Past Gold A Winner
Past Student Representative on the Senate

Distribution:

Dr. Campbell (Hand delivered in Ottawa)
Chairman McCubbin (by email)
Board of Regents (through Mr. McCubbin)
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