

April 07, 2011

Dr. Robert M Campbell
President and Vice-Chancellor of Mount Allison University
65 York Street Sackville NB E4L 1E4

Dear Dr. Campbell:

Mount Allison University will soon be subject to the 'Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, S.N.B. 2009, c. R-10.6'. Although they are not yet subject to this law, institutions are already releasing information in accordance with its provisions. Please consider this a request under the Act for the following information in relation to the decision of Mount Allison University to demolish the building known as *Memorial Library 1914 1918*.

Whereas the handsome *Memorial Library 1914 1918*, designed by noted Canadian architect Andrew Randall Cobb and constructed with red sandstone cut from the local Pickard quarry by men of the community, stands solid and proud in the Sackville streetscape; and

Whereas this stalwart sentry, *Memorial Library 1914 1918*, was conceived as a Cenotaph to honour the young students and alumni who gave their lives in the Great War so that we can live in a land that is '*glorious and free*'; and

Whereas this building, which was dedicated as a War Memorial on June 8, 1927 to the glory of God, and was entrusted to the care of Mount Allison University, also became a Memorial to the Lost of World War II and the Korean Conflict when students and alumni again "gave their todays for our tomorrows"; and

Whereas the families and friends of the Fallen gave so generously to this memorial project and raised most of the funds to construct the building; and

Whereas Mount Allison has given notice that she intends to break faith, and plans to demolish the *Memorial Library 1914 1918* to clear the ground for the construction of a new building to accommodate facilities for the Fine and Performing Arts; and

Whereas, as quoted in letters sent out by the University to selected Alumni, 'in preparation for the new Fine and Performing Arts Centre, architects carried out a building assessment with the assistance of a number of specialist firms; reports were prepared by two architectural firms, two engineering firms, and other experts on the state of the former University Centre building; the ultimate recommendation of these reports was that it would be imprudent to retain this building'; 'based on expert advice, it was estimated that retaining the existing structure would add approximately \$5 million to the project's cost'; and

Whereas the above mentioned reports have been cited as a basis for the decision to demolish the *Memorial Library 1914 1918*; therefore

In the public interest access is hereby requested to the above mentioned reports that address the state of the *Memorial Library 1914 1918* and the estimated costs of retaining the existing structure.

Enclosed please find the required application fee of \$5.00 in the form of a certified cheque.

Sincerely,
Robert Eaton

Cc Anne E. Bertrand, Q.C., New Brunswick Access to Information and Privacy Commissioner
Cc Mr. Bruce McCubbin, Chair of the Mount Allison Board of Regents
Cc Hon. Trevor Holder, MLA Saint John Portland, N.B. Minister of Wellness, Culture and Sport
Cc Hon. Mike Olscamp, MLA Tantramar; N.B. Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture & Fisheries

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