



*Patron: His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Governor General of Canada*

*Président d'honneur : Son Excellence le très honorable David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D., Gouverneur général du Canada*

June 25, 2014

Hon. Stephen McNeil
Premier
Province House
1726 Hollis Street,
Halifax, NS B3J 2Y3

Dear Premier McNeil,

As the national voice for the conservation of built heritage in Canada, Heritage Canada The National Trust is following with great concern recent media reports about the historic Dennis Building on Province House Square, which was included on our list of Top Ten Endangered Places in Canada in 2013.

According to media reporting, it appears that the future of this provincially-owned structure is uncertain.

This letter is to request your intervention to ensure that the Province follows a reasonable process of due diligence in this case. We have two specific recommendations in this regard:

1. There are heritage building professionals in your province qualified to undertake an appropriate structural assessment of the building. Obtaining this level of assessment would be a positive and proactive next step in advance of any potentially irreversible decisions about the building's future. We would be happy to provide contact information for local heritage architects and engineers.
2. There may be developers with an interest in this property. A Request for Proposals process would give them a fair and open opportunity to come forward with creative solutions to rehabilitate and adapt the site. We would be pleased to assist the Minister of Internal Services in crafting an RPF that strikes the appropriate balance between heritage conservation and flexible new design and development.

Heritage and development are not mutually exclusive. The goal is to adapt and evolve our landmark buildings in a way that makes sense economically. We urge you to do what is

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reasonable to ensure a future and continued use for a heritage building that has survived for more than 150 years at a landmark location across from Province House.

Thank you in advance for your intervention in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



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cc. The Hon. Labi Kousoulies, Minister of Internal Services

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