



September, 2010

Dear RHCS Supporter

You may be aware that the City of Coquitlam has applied to the Federal Government to have the Riverview Lands recognized as a National Historic Site. Naturally, we were very encouraged by this initiative and prepared a paper expressing our strong support. The decision makers in Ottawa were impressed with the application and a team of experts was preparing to visit Riverview to assess the site. A preliminary decision was to be made in December.

However, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) recently informed the City that the application could not be advanced because they were not able to obtain the approval of the landowners - namely the BC Provincial Government. The city of Coquitlam requested the Province's support over a year ago and has continued its efforts to secure the necessary letter of endorsement, unsuccessfully to date. The current Provincial Government will not respond. The HSMBC noted that the application was on hold but could be re-activated once the Province's support is obtained.

We are appealing to you to help us tell the Provincial Government what a wonderful opportunity this is for BC and how strongly the citizens of BC support the initiative. We want to encourage them to fully co-operate with the Federal board and to give their support for the application immediately. Please send your opinion to the key decision makers listed at the end of this letter.

Key points to focus on in your personal letter:

- **The Historical Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) is unable to advance further in their decision to designate the Riverview Lands as a National Historic Site until the Provincial Government, representing the people of BC as the landowners, endorses the application. This endorsement needs to be given immediately to allow the HSMBC to proceed with their evaluation.**
- **The historic connection between our community and Riverview, the importance of its heritage buildings and landscapes, the value of its arboretum and botanical diversity, its legacy of caring for the mentally ill, the importance of preserving its wildlife corridors, streams, and green space in a rapidly expanding metropolis.**
- **As a National Historic Site, Riverview can still serve the mentally ill and all Canadians as a treatment and research centre, a conference centre, and an education centre. In addition, its horticultural and architectural legacy would be a valued and valuable tourist destination.**
- **Riverview could become a historical gift to all British Columbians and Canadians from this government, to be cherished and cared for with pride for generations to come.**

RHCS has been trying since 1992 to find a way to protect this beautiful site and to ensure that it remains in public ownership. Never in 18 years of our campaign have we been as close to success as we are now! The possibility of National Historical Site designation is very real. We cannot let this opportunity slip by without making our collective voice heard. Please write today! Your personal letter will make a difference. Keep it short but clear and stress the main points. The letter you write today may be the most effective contribution you will make to save this beautiful historic site.

Yours Sincerely,
Board of Directors,
Riverview Horticultural Centre Society

Please send your letter to:

**Office of the Premier
Premier Gordon Campbell
PO Box 9041
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1**

Please copy the following MLAs who are connected to this issue. Mailing addresses are given. For e-mail contacts, use <http://www.leg.bc.ca/mla/3-1-7.htm>

**Minister of Health Services
Honourable Kevin Falcon
PO Box 9050
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2**

**Minister of Housing and Social Development
Honourable Rich Coleman
PO Box 9058
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2**

**Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts
Honourable Kevin Krueger
PO Box 9071
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2**

**Minister of the Environment
Honourable Barry Penner
PO Box 9047
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2**

**Minister of Citizens' Services
Honourable Mary McNeil
PO Box 9068
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E2**

**MLA for Coquitlam-Maillardville
Diane Thorne
102-1108 Austin Ave.
Coquitlam, BC
V3K 3P5**

**IMPORTANT: Please send a copy of your letter to your own MLA.
Letters to the Editor of your local newspapers are also very powerful.**