



14 May 2015

To: London Planning & Environment Committee

Re. Re-zoning, Official Plan amendment & site plan application for former Normal School, 165 Elmwood Avenue, OZ-8464/SP15-011783

Members of the Committee:

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this important matter at this public meeting. At its May meeting, the Old South Community Organization (OSCO) voted wholeheartedly to support the re-zoning, the Official Plan amendment, and the site plan application for the former Normal School.

Whereas the zoning and Official Plan amendment are more 'administrative necessities' that will allow for the new uses planned by the YMCA, the site plan alterations to the inside and outside of the building are critical for the adaptive re-use of this 115-year old beauty. We note that the provincial agency charged with protecting Ontario's heritage assets has signed off on the proposed changes, signifying that the significant heritage component is being protected.

As many of you may know, securing the future of the former Normal School and the adjoining park, "The Green" has been a key focus of OSCO's efforts since well before 2005 when the building was last vacated. As a measure of *our* commitment to this project, OSCO has committed to raising \$50,000 towards that effort - a significant challenge for any neighbourhood group.

We as a community are grateful to many individuals and groups, particularly the Province of Ontario, the city of London, and the YMCA for all their efforts to ensure that this building continues to serve as the heart of Old South for generations to come.

We therefore urge the committee and council to approve these applications without delay so that work can begin, and we can all look forward to the re-opening of this building in the fall of 2016, and the renewed life and activity it will bring to this part of London.

Sincerely,
George Sinclair
President, OSCO

cc. Stephen Turner, Barb Debbert, Eric Conway