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Hon. Jason Kenney, PC, MP

Calgary Southeast

November 20th, 2012

The City of Calgary
City Appeal Boards Subdivision and Development Appeal Board
#8110 P.O. Box 2100, Station M
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2M5

To whom it may concern:

I write with respect to the current plans to demolish the former Shaarey Tzedec Synagogue located at 103 17th Avenue SE. The Synagogue is a historic building with long-standing, deep-rooted ties to Calgary's local community, and is integrally linked to the cultural diversity of western Canada today. Given the historic, cultural and religious significance to the Calgary community and the building's potential for high-value use in the future, I respectfully request that you consider alternatives to demolition.

The Shaarey Tzedec Synagogue is the oldest standing synagogue in Alberta. It opened in 1959 and was owned for over 30 years by the Shaarey Tzedec Congregation Society - one of the first Jewish congregations in Calgary.

The physical building remains in excellent condition. The Calgary Heritage Authority's Historic Resource Evaluation notes that the building has symbolic value, institutional value, design value, and style value. It is located in a central area and could serve as an optimal venue for community events in Calgary.

Once again, I respectfully request that you refer to the City of Calgary's Heritage Department and consider alternatives for redevelopment that do not involve the demolition of Shaarey Tzedec Synagogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Kenney".

The Honourable Jason Kenney, P.C., M.P.
Calgary Southeast