



September 2006

New Civic Administration Building

The Cambridge Chamber of Commerce is in full support of Council's decision to forge ahead and build the new administration offices in the civic square. The Chamber has indeed been an advocate for the construction of the City's own offices for many years. Current rent escalation clauses make now the most appropriate time. While many discussions in the past have been centered on its location, this is not the issue up for debate at this time. Our Government Policy Committee, and Board have reviewed the financial, design and site plan aspects, and concur with the findings of the architects and consultants that this will be added value to the beautiful aspects of the Civic Square redevelopments over the last few years.

The economies of this project today have never been better. In the late 1980's a similar project was presented at a cost of 29 million dollars, and given that over 15 years has elapsed and a better design and layout has resulted for similar costs, now rather than later is the Chamber's official position. The timing is right, with the pending escalation of rents at Cambridge Place, the availability of funds from Hydro assets, and the emergence of Cambridge as an important economic component to the Region, all make it important to move forward now. While we understand that there are heritage issues and concerns surrounding this development, we believe that this building design is sympathetic to the heritage buildings in the area and will offer an enhancement to the Civic Square area to be enjoyed by all residents. We also understand that projects of this magnitude will never enjoy 100% support, however we believe the completion of the Civic Square will provide space that 100% will enjoy.

On behalf of the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Greg Durocher
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