

DALHOUSIE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

755 Somerset Street West, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 6R1

April 17, 2025

Ashley Kotarba, CAHP
Heritage Planner
Heritage Planning Branch
Planning, Development and Building Services Department
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Ave W, 4th Floor

Dear Ashley Kotarba:

Re: DCA Support for Designation of 43 Eccles Street under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.

The Dalhousie Community Association supports the recommendation of the Heritage Planning Branch to designate 43 Eccles Street – the former Sherwood Exchange – under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

We agree with the Statement of Cultural Heritage Value and its outline of the design, associative, and contextual values of this property.

While the Statement describes the role the building played in the delivery of telephone services in Ottawa in the twentieth century, its role in the Dalhousie community was strengthened after it was sold by the Bell Telephone Company to the Italian Businessmen's Association in the 1970s, as the late Robert Smythe explained last year in his article, "Number, please": the many lives of the Sherwood Exchange on Eccles Street," published in the Centretown BUZZ, September 18, 2024.

From 1975 the building served the community as a precursor to the Somerset West Community Health Centre, today one of the most important institutions in Dalhousie, at 55 Eccles.

As Robert Smythe sums up, "For its rich pre-digital story, 100 years on the Sherwood Exchange has to be one of the Dalhousie neighbourhood's coolest civic landmarks."

We look forward to the success of your recommendation to the Built Heritage Committee at its next meeting, May 13, 2025, to designate 43 Eccles Street under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Sincerely,

Catherine Boucher
President

cc. Councillor Ariel Troster