larkin architect limited



May 30, 2012

Heritage Restoration Inc. 60 Venture Drive, Units 15 & 16 Toronto, Ontario M1B 3S4

**Attention: Chris Huntley** 

Dear Chris,

## **RE:** Letter of Reference for Heritage Restoration Inc.

Larkin Architect Limited has had the pleasure of working with Heritage Restoration Inc. on a multi-phased project of repairs and restoration procedures at the historic St. Mary's Catholic Church located at Adelaide and Bathurst Streets in Toronto. The original project scope included emergency repairs to brickwork and the removal of a stone pinnacle which had shifted precariously. Completing the emergency repairs enabled the consulting team to then safely complete the necessary investigations and analysis to determine a cost effective scope of work that would stabilize ongoing deterioration and restore or replace assemblies that were beyond repair.

The first phase of the work included the complete replacement of the spire's copper cladding and underlying wood roof decking. Additional repairs were completed as required to the supporting wood structural members and their steel bolted connections.

Phase two included the replacement of 90% of the significantly deteriorated face course of brickwork on the upper tower, re-pointing of the remaining brick using historic lime mortars, repairs and re-pointing of the stonework including Jahn patching and replacement of badly eroded decorative stone medallions, replacement of remaining stone gargoyles with cast bronze facsimiles modified to better direct roof water away from the building, introduction of lead-coat flashings to protect restored masonry and prevent water from causing future deterioration, and re-building of wood lucarnes and louvers in copper/lead-coated copper.

Phase three, which is currently underway addresses re-pointing and selective brick/stone replacement on the lower half of the tower as well as completion of repairs/replacement of slate roofing, stone gable coping stones, foundation repairs, and more.

Heritage principals Alfred, Bruce, and Chris Huntley along with their hands-on foremen Alex Hunter, and Harvey Hervieux contributed their long term restoration expertise to assist the consulting team in assessing the condition of the existing building envelope, and to develop the most cost effective solutions to ensure long-term stability. The consultants and client found all members of the Heritage team to be cooperative and committed to resolving on-site issues as they arose in a timely and cost-effective manner. They were fair with changes and extremely helpful in sourcing alternative solutions to particular problems as they arose including assisting in sourcing heritage materials, specialty fabricators, and craftspeople. As a result, their work represents some of the highest standards we have encountered and Larkin Architect Limited would recommend their restoration services for similar projects without reservation.

We look forward to completing the work with Heritage and hope to work with them again on future projects. I would also invite potential clients to contact me should they wish to receive further information on Heritage's performance on the St. Mary's restoration project.

Sincerely,

skerlo divita

Roberto Chiotti, BES, BARCH, MTS, OAA, MRAIC, LEED $^{\text{TM}}$  AP *Principal*