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Jennifer Forkes
City Clerk's Office
10th floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2

February 27, 2015

Dear Ms. Forkes:

RE: EX 3.4 2015 Capital and Operating Budgets

This past Tuesday, February 24, Heritage Toronto released its *State of Heritage Report*, which reported a year's worth of findings, gathered through community consultations across the GTA. The report states in part that "greater effort is required to retain existing heritage resources, while balancing Toronto's growth and keeping important historical touchstones." While those consulted applauded the creation of new Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs), they found that additional resources are sorely needed to manage the nearly 1,600 new properties that have been added to the City's *Inventory of Heritage Properties* through these HCDs.

With this recent report in mind, Heritage Toronto strongly opposes the Budget Committee's proposed amendment to the 2015 Operating Budget. The proposed Operating Budget reductions in Recommendation 1a of **EX3.4 2015 Capital and Operating Budgets** would have a severe and negative impact on the City's ability to manage development review applications for these properties.

Heritage planning is an integral part of building a strong, diverse, and dynamic international city. The proposed reductions in Recommendation 1a would strike a significant blow against the strides made in recent years to protect and integrate heritage resources into city planning. As the City agency responsible for promoting the value of Toronto's unique heritage to the public, we urge the Executive Committee to oppose this reduction of resources to the Heritage Preservation Services division in the City Planning department.

Sincerely,



Francisco Alvarez
Executive Director



Catherine Marshall
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