



February 20, 2014

Toronto Preservation Board
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario

Chair and members Toronto Preservation Board

RE:

PB2.7 Toronto Heritage Conservation District (HCD) Study Prioritization Report (Ward All

I regret I am unable to attend in person.

I am writing on behalf of the Toronto Branch of Architectural Conservancy Ontario to ask to participate in Point 6 before you, a review of the nomination process for HCDs in Toronto. We would also suggest that the City of Toronto policy regarding the creation of HCDs be reviewed so that we can streamline the process to make more efficient use of scarce staff and consultant resources.

Since the results of the nomination process were announced I have been contacted by several of the "losing" communities, all of which are more than worthy of conservation yet may have to wait years to receive attention. We might question whether the decision should have rewarded other worthy applicants, creating a different set of winners and losers but the fundamental problem is that we need to think differently. Resources need to be spread more equitably and community resources more effectively mobilized to ensure conservation of all valued places.

ACO Toronto would argue that the shift in process has added a lot of baggage, some of which is not necessary under the Ontario Heritage Act. At the time of adoption of the policy a number of heritage professionals stepped forward offering suggestions, some of which were incorporated, but much more could be done to make the process more efficient and effective.

ACO Toronto is working on some tools that everyone could use to record what is valuable in their communities, allowing the public to place information in a wiki like accessible data base.

There are other suggestions we would like to make. In the near future we will be convening a conversation to bring other constructive suggestions to help protect more of Toronto. We hope that this dialogue will assist in adjusting the process so that by this time next year all of those seeking protection will be able to move forward.

Sincerely yours,

Catherine Nasmith
President

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