

February 24, 2015

Toronto Preservation Board
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario

Chair and members Planning and Growth Management

RE:

PG2.8 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. ACO Toronto would also suggest that the **City of Toronto HCD Policy regarding the creation of HCDs be reviewed to streamline the process to make more efficient use of scarce staff and consultant resources.**

I am also an experienced heritage planner, author of several HCD studies and plans, including Harbord Village I and II, Riverdale, as well as for Fort York (with dtah) West Annex Phase 1 Heritage Conservation District (Madison Avenue).

Since the results of the nomination process were announced, ACO Toronto has 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 prioritization decision before you 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.**

Different areas require different standards, for example the issues in defining and conserving the heritage resources at Fort York were quite different than for a street in a residential area. One size doesn't fit all situations.

Resources need to be spread more equitably and community resources more effectively mobilized to ensure conservation of all of Toronto's valued places. The critical factor in the limited number of Districts able to move forward is City staff resources. Any reduction in staff will contribute to even fewer HCD's moving forward.

ACO Toronto respectfully suggests that City of Toronto HCD policy has added a lot of baggage to creating HCD's, **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.

10 Adelaide Street East, Suite 403, Toronto, ON M5C 1J3
T 416.947.1066 F 416.367.8630 E info@torarchcon.org

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Nasmith', written in a cursive style.

Catherine Nasmith
OAA FRAIC CAHP
President ACO Toronto