

Statement of District Objectives

The overall objective of this Heritage Conservation District Plan is to protect and conserve the cultural heritage value and interest of the District as manifested by its heritage attributes in order to preserve these qualities for the benefit of current and future generations. The cultural heritage value and interest of the District consists of its historic value, physical character and its social and community value. The heritage attributes of the District include its built form, landscape, streetscape, function and archaeological elements. Looking forward to the management of change within the District, the overall objective of this District Plan will focus upon addressing the physical character and the function of the St. Lawrence Neighbourhood.

Specific objectives of this Plan are set out below. Although the following sections are numbered, the numeric sequence does not establish a priority among the objectives.

1. Conserve the cultural heritage value of the District as embodied in its physical character, which is described in general terms in the Heritage Attributes.
2. Conservation the Heritage Attributes of the heritage resources as well as the general fabric of the District, including its predominantly one to four storey scale of buildings, and its character as a historic enclave in proximity and in contrast to the density and the built form of nearby areas such as the City's Financial District.
3. Conserve and enhance the social and community significance of the District in terms of its role as a neighbourhood with a distinct local identity premised on its distinct physical character and in terms of its broader role as an identifiable City landmark containing important cultural, institutional and social venues.
4. Manage change within the District such that new construction, infill development, additions and alterations to built form, landscapes and streetscapes are compatible with their context and further, complement the cultural heritage value and interest of the District.
5. Maintain and reinforce the historic height of the District, and the differentiation between the scale of the tall buildings around Yonge Street and the street-related, pedestrian-scaled environment of the District.
6. Reinforce the strong and articulated streetwalls that characterize the main arteries of the District.
7. Recognize King Street East as the historic artery of the neighbourhood and city.

8. Support and encourage the adaptive re-use of heritage properties where those uses and the proposed built form do not result in unacceptable adverse impact on the cultural heritage value and interest of contributing buildings and the District.
9. Protect identified shadow-sensitive heritage features from net new shadows.
10. Protect the streetscapes, particularly along King Street East, by minimizing loss of sky views and sight lines.
11. Protect identified vistas and views into and out of the area.
12. Promote excellence in streetscape, lighting, landscape, signage, and civic design to enhance the public realm.
13. Encourage and promote a continued sense of community and uses related to public gathering and civic activity through the establishment of complete streets, pedestrian amenities and pedestrian connections.
14. Enhance the legibility of the historic urban fabric including the original 10 blocks, the original government reserve lands and the First Parliament Buildings site through means which will encourage signage and streetscape treatments.
15. Ensure that known and potential archaeological resources are protected until such time as appropriate investigation is undertaken.