

National Trust for Canada  Fiducie nationale du Canada

June 23, 2026

Toronto City Council
City of Toronto
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Councillors,

On behalf of the National Trust for Canada, I am writing to express our concern regarding the future of the Sterling Road Lofts, located at 221–227 Sterling Road. We urge City Council to consider the significant heritage value of the building before making a decision to demolish.

The Sterling Lofts were built in 1912 by Fairbanks-Morse, including architecturally significant features such as brick-and-cement mortar walls with timber posts, steel beams, and six-inch-thick concrete floors. The building has served as an engine plant, a First World War munitions facility, and over the past 35 years as a live-work community for Toronto artists.

This is a building of considerable heritage interest. The City of Toronto has already recognized the Lofts for their heritage value through existing designation on the City's Heritage Register. Their recognition stems from a Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment, procured by the City of Toronto in 2021, which recommended the site for designation following historical research, field survey, and community consultation.

Created in 1973, the National Trust for Canada is the leading national charity dedicated to the conservation of Canada's historic places. The Trust believes that heritage places and older buildings are integral to solving community challenges and meeting contemporary needs, including climate resilience, inclusion, identity and sense of place, and community wellbeing.

The preservation and continued use of heritage places, like the Sterling Road Lofts, provide economic, social, and environmental benefits to communities. They are places of gathering, self-definition, and shared memory. The Lofts are an enduring reflection of Toronto's unique industrial past and an example of successful adaptive reuse for local needs. Although development aims to reintroduce a limited number of affordable live-work units, requisite demolition will strip Torontonians of this special place and its lively historical context.

The Sterling Lofts offer an opportunity for the City of Toronto to demonstrate leadership in the reuse of this building, to capitalize on its physical, aesthetic and community value, and to maintain something valued by local residents today.

Sincerely,



Patricia Kell, DPhil
Executive Director