



July 16, 2026

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

RE: PH32.20 - Expiry Date for Protection of Heritage Properties Listed Under the Ontario Heritage Act

To Mayor Olivia Chow and Members of City Council,

This is to indicate our strong support for Councillor Josh Matlow's Motion that:

1. City Council request the Premier and the Minister of Citizenship and Multiculturalism to make a regulation under the Ontario Heritage Act granting a further extension for three years, from January 1, 2027 to January 1, 2030 for any property listed on a municipal register to be formally designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.
2. City Council request the Mayor to work with other Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) in regard to the matter on seeking an extension to the Ontario Heritage Act timeframe for the designation of properties listed on a municipal register.
3. City Council forward this item to the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) for information.

The protection of listed heritage properties on municipal registers will expire on December 31, 2026. Such properties have only limited, short-term (60 day) protection, but automatically removing listed properties from the registry will encourage demolition of potential affordable housing alternatives at a time when we need them the most. And properties that lose listing status cannot be re-listed for another five years.

The December 31, 2026 deadline affects some 21,000 properties in municipalities across the province, including about 4,000 currently listed heritage properties in Toronto. Forcing municipalities to designate all of their listed properties within a short period of time — or drop them from the register — was draconian and unrealistic.

While the Provincial government provided an initial extension in 2024, the expiry date is now less than six months away. The City of Toronto, the GTHA, indeed all Ontario municipalities are under enormous pressure to review their registers and prioritize properties for designation or other protection. The municipal elections scheduled for later this year present an additional obstacle to municipalities trying to meet the deadline.

The recommended regulation change represents a practical, administrative adjustment that helps municipalities deliver on Provincial heritage and planning objectives, prevent demolition of buildings that anchor community identity, economic activity, and support adaptive re-use – one of the most cost-effective forms of development. Doing so aligns with the government's focus on strong, competitive, and economically vibrant communities.

The certainty of an additional three years for implementation would give municipalities the needed opportunity to complete this long overdue process while balancing competing pressures and supports the implementation and delivery of the Government's priorities.

Sincerely,

Yours truly,

Geoff Kettel

Geoff Kettel
Co-Chair, FoNTRA

Cc: Jason Thorne, Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning
Mary Macdonald, Senior Manager, Heritage Planning, City Planning
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario
Community Heritage Ontario

The Federation of North Toronto Residents' Associations (FoNTRA) is a non-profit, volunteer organization comprised of over 30 member organizations. Its members, all residents' associations, include at least 170,000 Toronto residents within their boundaries. The 28 residents' associations that make up FoNTRA believe that Ontario and Toronto can and should achieve better development. Its central issue is not *whether* Toronto will grow, but *how*. FoNTRA believes that sustainable urban regions are characterized by environmental balance, fiscal viability, infrastructure investment and social renewal.