

7 April 2024

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

CC'd:

City Council, City of Toronto
Heritage Planning, City of Toronto
Etobicoke & York / North York / Scarborough Community Preservation Panels
Toronto Preservation Board (c/o Councillor Parthi Kandavel and Julia Rady)
Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (c/o The Hon. Michael Ford)
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (c/o The Hon. Paul Calandra)
The Hon. Premier Doug Ford
Department of Canadian Heritage (c/o The Hon. Pascale St. Onge)
Architectural Conservancy of Ontario: Ontario Office & Toronto Branch

Mayor Chow,

I am the elected Chair of the Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel (TEYCPP) and a member of the Toronto Preservation Board. Information on the Panel is available [here](#).

The TEYCPP is requesting that Mayor Olivia Chow formally appeal the Province of Ontario to grant a 5-year extension for Bill 23 by extending the deadline to 1 January 2030. This request must come from a municipality under current legislative frameworks within the Province of Ontario.

The City of Toronto's Heritage Register was created in 1973. In Toronto, there are currently 12 000 heritage properties, consisting of 8000 designated properties and 4000 listed properties. This currently represents approximately 1% of the buildings within the City of Toronto.

In late 2022, the Province of Ontario announced Bill 23 — the More Homes Built Faster Act. This Bill stipulates that heritage listed properties can only remain on a municipal heritage register for 2 years after which they will lose heritage status and be subject to a moratorium prohibiting re-listing or designation for a 5-year period.

On 1 January 2025, 4000 properties within the City of Toronto will lose heritage status unless the City of Toronto designates them prior to this point in time. Over 3800 of these properties are located within the boundaries of the TEYCPP.

Heritage Planning staff advised that they currently have the capacity to designate approximately 50 properties per year. This is the most of any municipality within Ontario.

Heritage Planning has outsourced an assessment of the heritage register to ASI. Heritage Planning has also approached the Community Preservation Panels and requested we help coordinate local history researchers and organizations to research the listed properties. This will be the largest community-based history research project in the City of Toronto's history. Already, community groups are undertaking research and at least one neighbourhood — Harbord Village — has offered to serve as a Pilot Project in response to Bill 23.

Digital research tools — such as the creation of the Internet and subsequent archival digitization efforts — allow researchers an unprecedented opportunity to explore our history with greater detail than ever before.

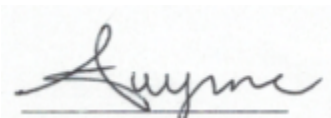
This legislative change is additionally an opportunity to update heritage listings to better reflect the diversity of modern-day Toronto, including important associations or uses of the property that may have happened since the property was listed and to identify groups who are currently underrepresented on the heritage register.

However, even with the advent of digital research tools, the Province of Ontario's mandate that 51 years of heritage research be completely overhauled and updated to meet modern legislative requirements within 2 years is prohibitory and unrealistic.

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Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Thank-you,



Adam Wynne
Chair, Toronto and East York Community Preservation Panel
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