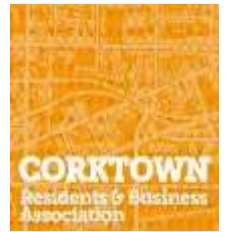


Corktown Residents & Business Association Inc.
P.O. Box / Unit 69
260 Adelaide St. East
Toronto, ON
M5A 1N1



MEMORANDUM / ADVOCACY LETTER

TO: City of Toronto Councillors, Toronto Preservation Staff, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, and the Community Heritage Association

FROM: Incoming Board of Directors, Corktown Residents & Business Assoc. Inc.

DATE: July 23, 2026

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

To Mayor Oliva Chow and Members of City Council

We are writing to express our strong support for Councillor Josh Matlow's Motion, PH32.20, including recommendations 1 through 3, as well as the July 16, 2026 letter submitted by the Federation of North Toronto Neighbourhood Associations.

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.

While we recognize and support the Province's objective of increasing housing supply, we do not believe heritage conservation and housing growth are mutually exclusive. Extending the current deadline would simply provide municipalities with sufficient time to undertake proper research, consultation, and designation decisions, rather than allowing thousands of historically significant properties to lose protection simply because municipalities have not been given sufficient time to complete the necessary research and designation process.

Under the amended Ontario Heritage Act, the January 1, 2027 deadline will result in more than 21,000 listed heritage properties across Ontario, including approximately 4,000 in Toronto, being automatically removed from municipal heritage registers unless they receive formal designation under Part IV of the Act.

In Corktown alone, we estimate that nearly 300 listed heritage properties could lose their protection if the deadline is not extended. We therefore support a minimum three-year extension, and preferably 5 years to allow municipalities sufficient time to complete thoughtful heritage evaluations and designations.

With the Ontario Legislature currently on summer recess and not expected to reconvene until late October, the opportunity to secure a legislative extension before the January 1 deadline is rapidly narrowing.

Immediate and coordinated municipal action is therefore essential to protect Toronto's architectural and cultural heritage from the unintended consequences of this deadline.

Key Considerations:

- **The Scale of the Risk:** Removing more than 4,000 listed properties from Toronto's Heritage Register would eliminate the 60-day notice period before demolition, significantly reducing opportunities for heritage review and public awareness.
- **Limited Legislative Window:** Once the Legislature resumes in late October, municipalities will have fewer than two months to advocate for an extension while simultaneously managing designation work before the January deadline.

Call to Action:

- The Corktown Residents & Business Association Inc. urges Toronto City Council and its heritage partners to work through every available avenue including the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), to advocate for an extension while prioritizing designation work for the most vulnerable heritage properties.

The protection of Toronto's historic built heritage cannot afford a passive approach during this legislative recess.

We look forward to working collaboratively with City Council, Heritage Planning staff, the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, the Community Heritage Association, and municipalities across Ontario to advance an immediate strategy that safeguards our shared heritage.

Thank you for your time, your prompt attention to this urgent matter, and your continued dedication to preserving Toronto's shared history.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Incoming Board of Directors of the Corktown Residents & Business Association Inc., whose term of office commences August 1, 2026.

Coralina Lemos, Board Member and Designated Correspondent

Co-signed by the Board of Directors (via official quorum agreement):

- **Anisha Ladha**, Director
- **Eric Dietterle**, Director
- **Susan Bates**, Director

Primary Contact Information:

cory_lemos@yahoo.com

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