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Planning & Housing Committee

Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West
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July 14, 2026

Re: Letter Regarding Looming Expiry Date for Protection of Heritage Properties Listed Under the *Ontario Heritage Act*

Dear Chair & Committee Members,

I am writing to request your support for advocating to the Provincial Government to protect heritage properties in Ontario which are at risk of expiring from municipal heritage registers at the end of the year.

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, and automatically removing listed properties from the registry would permit the demolition of valuable heritage properties across Ontario.

As part of the More Homes Built Faster Act, 2022 (Bill 23), the province mandated that any property listed on a municipal register as of December 31, 2022, must be formally designated under the Ontario Heritage Act (OHA) by January 1, 2025, or be removed. In 2024 the province passed Bill 200, the Homeowner Protection Act, 2024, which extended the timeframe for municipalities to review legacy listed properties to January 1, 2027.

Under the current two-year extension, any heritage property listed on a municipal register as of December 31, 2026 shall be removed from the register on January 1, 2027, unless that council has given notice of its intention to designate the property under the Act. Properties that lose listing status cannot be re-listed for another five years.

The upcoming deadline affects around 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 is both heavy-handed and unrealistic.

With the expiry date now only about six months away, municipalities are under enormous pressure to review their registers and prioritize properties for designation or other protection. The staffing and financial cost in research for designation is enormous, and there are not enough heritage staff to handle the work.

The requested extension represents a practical, administrative adjustment that helps municipalities deliver on Provincial heritage and planning objectives, prevent demolition of buildings that anchor community identity and economic activity and support adaptive re-use. The certainty of an additional three years for implementation would give municipalities the ability to complete this long overdue process while balancing competing pressures and supports the implementation and delivery of the provincial government's priorities.

Thank you for your consideration of the accompanying recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION:

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.



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