



CHO - PCO
Community Heritage Ontario
Partnership for the Conservation of Ontario's Heritage

24 Eglinton Street West
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1C5

416-924-1111 (416) 297-2710 Fax: (416) 267-9402
E-mail: www.communityheritage.org

C

December 29, 2017

South Huron
Ms. Laurie Dykstra
Chairperson
South Huron Heritage Committee
c/o Genevieve Scharback, Clerk
322 Main St. S.
Box 759
Exeter, ON N0M 1S6

Dear Ms. Laurie Dykstra,

Community Heritage Ontario (CHO) is writing to all Ontario municipal heritage committees seeking support for federal action on the conservation of heritage properties.

CHO seeks the support of both your Heritage Committee and your Municipal Council in each writing to the federal Minister of Environment with copies to the Minister of Finance and your member(s) of federal Parliament supporting the recommendations of the federal House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development contained in report 10 regarding the preservation of Canada's heritage. A copy of the seventeen Committee recommendations is attached. The full report is available for viewing at: <http://www.ourcommons.ca/DocumentViewer/en/42-1/ENVI/report-10>.

While all of the Committee's recommendations are worthy of support, it would be helpful if, in your letters, you emphasized recommendation number eleven, a proposed tax credit for restoration and preservation work on buildings listed in the Canadian Register of Historic Places. The tax credit program could be similar to one that has been utilized for years by the United States federal government. That tax credit program has achieved success in conserving America's heritage properties while at the same time generating substantial economic development.

Implementation of the Committee's recommendations will not only help conserve federally owned heritage properties but will also assist in the conservation of privately owned heritage properties.

It is essential that we demonstrate widespread support for a federal government role in conserving Canada's heritage and that this role should be pursued through the implementation of the Standing Committee's recommendations.

Input is being sought by the federal government on these recommendations over the next two months. It is important that letters of support be received by the federal Ministers no later than February 28, 2018.

Sincerely,

Wayne Morgan
President, Community Heritage Ontario

Recommendations Attached


Wayne Morgan
President, Community Heritage Ontario

RECOMMENDATIONS

of Report 10 of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development - Preserving Canada's Heritage: The Foundation for Tomorrow

The Committee Recommends that the federal government:

1. *Policy on Management of Real Property* be integrated in new legislation so that custodian departments of designated federal heritage buildings are required to protect the commemorative integrity of these buildings and prevent demolition-by-neglect.
2. introduce legislation to provide statutory protection for federal heritage buildings.
3. introduce legislation imposing on Crown corporations the same requirements imposed on federal departments and agencies by the *Policy on Management of Real Property* regarding the management of federal heritage buildings, in order to protect the commemorative integrity of buildings owned by these Crown corporations and prevent their demolition-by-neglect.
4. introduce legislation to establish a process to protect, conserve, document and exhibit archaeological resources on federal land and under waters of federal responsibility.
5. introduce legislation to provide a statutory obligation on federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations to protect the commemorative integrity of all national historic sites of Canada.
6. introduce legislation to provide a statutory obligation on federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations to protect the integrity of federal heritage buildings owned by the federal government or under its jurisdiction.
7. Treasury Board Secretariat work with federal departments and agencies to ensure that they invest 2% of the asset replacement value annually towards the maintenance and repair of federal heritage buildings, as recommended in the Treasury Board Secretariat's *Guide to the Management of Real Property*.
8. adopt a policy requiring federal departments and agencies to, when deemed appropriate, give preference to existing heritage buildings when considering leasing or purchasing space.
9. introduce legislation to:
 - a. ensure that federal actions do not adversely impact the commemorative integrity of national historic sites of Canada or the integrity of heritage sites and buildings designated by provinces and municipalities in Canada;
 - b. provide statutory protection for Canadian World Heritage sites;
 - c. ensure that federal actions take into consideration the heritage values of Canada's historic places; and
 - d. give statutory recognition of the Canadian Register of Historic Places and the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*.

10. restore the funding level for the National Cost-Sharing Program for Heritage Places to a minimum of \$10 million per year.
11. establish a tax credit for the restoration and preservation of buildings listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.
12. in co-operation with provincial and territorial governments, work to adapt future versions of Canada's *National Model Building Codes* in a manner that will facilitate the restoration and the rehabilitation of existing buildings and the preservation of their heritage characteristics.
13. Parks Canada review its National Cost-Sharing Program and, if it is determined that rural sites are under-represented in applications for funding or in the awarding of funding, steps should be taken to improve the program.
14. consider supporting an initiative modelled after the "Main Street America" model, to encourage public and private investment in commercial historic buildings in rural areas and small cities as a catalyst for community sustainability and economic development.
15. support an Indigenous-led initiative that will be responsible for:
 - a. determining how places that are important to Canada's Indigenous peoples should be protected and preserved;
 - b. enhancing the capacity of Indigenous communities to preserve places that are important to them; and
 - c. presenting the perspective of Indigenous communities regarding the protection of places that are important to them to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat, Parks Canada and other federal government departments and agencies.
16. Parks Canada, in cooperation with Indigenous groups, include Indigenous registrars in the Canadian Register of Historic Places to improve the process by which Indigenous places that are important to Indigenous peoples are identified and designated.
17. in support of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action 79 and 81, and in consultation with Indigenous groups:
 - a. introduce legislation amending the *Historic Sites and Monuments Act* to add First Nations, Inuit, and Métis representation on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and its Secretariat.
 - b. The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada revise the policies, criteria, and practices of the National Program of Historical Commemoration to integrate Indigenous history, heritage values, and memory practices into Canada's national heritage and history.
 - c. Parks Canada develop and implement a national heritage plan and strategy for commemorating and, where appropriate, conserving residential school sites, the history and legacy of residential schools, and the contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canada's history.
 - d. in collaboration with Residential School Survivors, commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools National Monument in the city of Ottawa to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.