

May 4, 2023

Dear Guelph City Council Members,

My name is Elia Morrison, my partner and I are the owners of the properties located at [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I am writing to express our support for the proposed designation of our properties as culturally and architecturally significant. However, we are also concerned about the potential financial burden that such a designation may impose on property owners.

As you may know, heritage designation requires the maintenance and preservation of heritage features, which can be costly for property owners to maintain. Additionally, restrictions on modifications can limit the ability of property owners to update to modern energy efficiency standards, which can have long-term benefits for both the property owner and the environment.

As a low-income household, my partner and I are unable to take on more financial stress, especially given the current economic uncertainty. We understand and appreciate the importance of preserving Guelph's cultural and architectural heritage. Still, we hope that the council will consider the financial burden that heritage designation can impose on property owners, particularly those with low income.

We strongly encourage the council to explore financial incentives for heritage property owners in the next budgeting session. We urge you to consider the Heritage Property Tax Relief program available through the province of Ontario, which provides tax relief to property owners who undertake the preservation and restoration of heritage properties. This type of financial incentive can be a significant help for property owners with low income who are unable to bear the financial burden of heritage property ownership.

Furthermore, we would like to encourage the council to consider implementing additional financial incentives that can help property owners update their properties to meet modern energy efficiency standards. Such incentives could include grants, rebates, or other financial assistance that can help offset the cost of implementing energy-efficient upgrades. These incentives can help promote environmental sustainability while also supporting the financial stability of property owners.

By implementing financial incentives for heritage property owners and energy efficiency upgrades, we can ensure that our city's cultural and architectural heritage is preserved while also promoting environmental sustainability and supporting the financial stability of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Elia Morrison
Owner, [REDACTED]