
From: REY DE BOER <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 12:13 PM
To: Minister of Communities, Culture & Heritage; Office of the Legislative Counsel;
chuck@chuckporter.ca
Subject: Opposition to proposed changes to the Heritage Property Act.

Good afternoon, Mr Ince, Ms. Whalen, and Mr. Porter,

It has come to my attention that the Province of Nova Scotia is proposing to weaken the laws pertaining to heritage properties. Below is the information provided by John Ballard of the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia that I received via email chain.

I strongly oppose any weakening of these laws and ask that all of you reconsider the changes as they will impact ours, and future generations's heritage.

Here is a summary of the changes proposed which will weaken the heritage property laws in Nova Scotia:

1. **Clauses 1, 3 and 8 of Bill 118 will make it much easier to delete a building from the list of protected heritage properties in Nova Scotia.** The clauses will allow deregistration of heritage properties on the basis of "significant financial difficulties" or "undue hardship to the owner". This wording is subjective and open-ended. Who will define "undue hardship?" **Registration or deregistration should be based on the historic and architectural merits of the properties, NOT on the financial situation of the owners.**
2. **Clause 9 of the Bill will repeal the permanent protection for municipal heritage properties in heritage conservation districts.** The government proposes to eliminate Section 19B(1)(b) of the Heritage Property Act. Municipal heritage properties in conservation districts will no longer have permanent protection; an owner, who applied to demolish a heritage building, could carry out the demolition three years later, unless the municipality bought the property or entered into an agreement. Several municipalities have established Heritage Conservation Districts to protect their heritage neighbourhoods. This change will weaken these special districts.
3. **Clauses 2 and 7 will make it easier to deregister parts of heritage properties.** Since a hearing is necessary to register a municipal heritage property, a hearing should also be necessary to deregister part of the property. Otherwise properties can be deregistered without public knowledge.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Rey de Boer

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Member of the Board of the Industrial Heritage Society of Nova Scotia