
From: Shannon Donovan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2015 8:46 AM
To: Minister of Communities, Culture & Heritage; Office of the Legislative Counsel; Ben Jessome
Subject: Bill 118

Good Morning Hon. Tony Ince, Hon. Diana C. Whalen and Mr. Ben Jessome,

As a resident and tax payer of HRM, I would like to voice my concerns regarding **Bill 118**, amendments to the **Heritage Property Act**, and the destruction of well-loved registered heritage properties.

I do not agree with the changes to the heritage property laws that will easily allow a building to be deleted from the list of protected heritage properties in Nova Scotia. **Registration or deregistration should be based on the historic and architectural merits of the properties, not on the financial situation of the current owners!**

Municipal heritage properties in heritage conservation districts should be permanently protected.

And I believe it is only fair that **a hearing should be necessary to deregister part of a property since it is necessary to register it.**

Some argue that buildings cost too much to repair and I have concerns regarding some taking advantage of demolition by neglect.

The principal aims of the Heritage Property Program are/were to:

- *Recognize significant heritage resources, especially through registration on the Municipal Registry of Heritage Properties and the designation of heritage conservation districts;*
- *Provide conservation advice and information on heritage properties;*
- *Facilitate the ongoing maintenance, preservation, restoration, and the reuse/rehabilitation of heritage properties through financial incentives and the administration of provincial and municipal regulation.*

Rules were originally put in place to ensure that registered properties were not negatively affected or destroyed. Does new development overrule the importance of saving our registered historic architecture for future generations?

We conserve our heritage properties to:

- *enhance our quality of life and sense of history, community and identity;*
- *improve our economic well-being by employing local craftspeople and trades people related to conservation;*
- *add diversity and character to new development;*
- *contribute to sustainability by reducing landfill waste, and lessening the demand for energy and resources needed for new construction.*

Recognition - A plaque is installed to officially recognize the property as an important asset to the rich cultural heritage of the community and region.

A thought for consideration:

Over 22 million tourists visited Paris in 2014 - how many do you think travel to visit the metal and glass business district? Very few. Most tourists visit places for the attractions and sites, including the unique history and architecture. Do you take photographs of beautiful or unique buildings when you travel? Why is that?

So much can be done in this city to promote our history and showcase the beautiful old architecture, some of which survived the Halifax explosion. The city should consider promoting the history behind some of the lesser known properties to tourists to generate revenue (i.e. walking tour maps of heritage buildings and include the history).

Other cities in the world promote everything they have to offer to tourists. Halifax has so much! It is one of the oldest cities in North America! Our heritage properties should be of concern to Canada in general; not just Nova Scotia. I would suggest requesting federal funding from the new Liberal government to provide subsidies for maintenance for heritage property owners.

Some believe that progress equals destroying the old. But what does that say? History is not important? History should be forgotten? Progress does need to be made and certain areas do need to be updated and revitalized but this can be done without demolishing historic buildings, which are registered heritage properties for a reason. I'm sure that many developers would be willing to compromise to maintain the heritage of the city.

Please do not allow this bill to pass. We have already lost many historic buildings to demolition for development. You have the opportunity to save them for the next generation. Please do so.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

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Shannon Donovan